

March 2015



SAT. APRIL 18, 2015

8:00 AM **Fiesta 5K Run/Walk**

10:00 AM **Community Parade**

11:00 AM **Food Booths**
— 5:00 PM **Arts & Crafts**

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Message From the Mayor

It's hard to believe that we are nearing the end of the first quarter of 2015. We see signs that spring is arriving with the buds forming on the trees and spring flowers beginning to bloom. This is a time of new growth and if your New Year's resolutions have begun to slip, spring provides an excellent opportunity to start anew!

As you know, this year started off with the aftermath of the tragic fire at the Wedgwood senior living complex. The city partnered with more than 20 agencies from surrounding cities and Bexar County to address the numerous challenges associated with helping to meet the pressing needs of the former residents, and working with the building's owners as they transitioned to administering the immense duties of the ongoing management of the situation. Our hearts continue to go out to the displaced residents and the families of those who did not survive the fire, and we hope for the best resolution for them so they find the needed resources and support to deal with this heartbreaking episode.

I had the privilege to recognize city officials, and issue two proclamations to our Fire, Police and Public Works departments, for their efforts to address the continuing recovery efforts. Our departments acted in an exemplary manner to bring this tragic situation to a point where the city's involvement has been concluded. I cannot thank you, the public, enough for your support via emails, phone calls and letters, and your encouragement of us in our efforts during that period of time. The proclamations were a small gesture to our departments, but the knowledge of your support is the best reward for the individuals who gave so selflessly of their time and energy throughout the tragedy and aftermath.

Despite the grim start to the year, we are still making positive steps on a number of fronts. Our first farmer's market took place in the parking lot at the Castle Hills Plaza Shopping Center (behind IBC Bank and Sonic) on February 8th, and it was a rousing success. Despite the cool, overcast day, 21 vendors displayed and sold their wares ranging from locally-produced pasta, honey, nuts, juices, natural dips and snacks, olive oils, balsamic vinegars and produce, to woven shopping bags, natural tooth whitening products, and bath salts. Local businesses such as the C'est La Vie Bakery and Munchies offered food and beverages to the shoppers. Special thanks go out to Taylor Becken for organizing this much-anticipated event that raises our city's profile and increases traffic and commerce within our city limits. Thanks also to all the residents who came out in support of our vendor partners on that cool February morning. The Farm to Market continues to grow and if you have not had the opportunity to visit on a Sunday, please stop by as the market is open from 9 A.M. to 1 P.M.

In other city news, we have hired a new City Secretary, Exzentrius Sturdivant. Exzentrius interned at City Hall during the fall, and formally joined the staff in January. Stop by to introduce yourselves, and get to know our newest employee!

I also had the honor of naming Joyce Buie the Castle Hills Citizen of the Year for 2014. Joyce was instrumental in organizing the efforts to clean up the Commons in 2014, and this award for her work is well deserved. As I'm sure most of you know, Joyce has been very active in the city for many years, serving on a variety of committees in the city, and even serving on the City Council and as Mayor.

The City is continuing our journey to take the City into the 21st century issuing electronic tablets to the City Manager and Department Heads in an effort to streamline communications and better manage resources while moving towards a paperless process. The City recently approved and implemented a new employee manual with up-to-date policies and procedures aligned to other cities our size. Internal reviews of policies and procedures helps to keep our city work environment competitive and fair.

Other initiatives are moving forward giving 2015 a positive start. The City of Castle Hills Crime Control and Prevention District approved the budget that allocates funds for the purchase of police vehicle recording devices, including dashboard cameras. The Drainage Committee's recommendations have resulted in a draft for the master drainage plan. The city engineering firm is presently using this draft to create a final master drainage plan.

Coupled with the drainage plan, the street repair and maintenance initiatives are proceeding as scheduled. We received results from a vendor study of the "reclimate" process that we are using to extend the life of streets that are not in terrible shape yet, but are showing signs of wear and disrepair. Results of core samples show that this maintenance process has great promise as a short-term solution to improving our streets without the cost of repaving. The City Council and staff will continue to evaluate the needs of the city infrastructure, explore funding avenues, and review effectiveness of the preventative measures while striving everyday to improve and expand our efforts to maintain city infrastructure.

As always, I continue to appreciate your encouragement and ongoing support of our city.

Timothy A Howell
Mayor, Castle Hills, Texas
210-535-9094

www.cityofcastlehills.com

timothyallanhowell@yahoo.com
mayor@cityofcastlehills.com
[timothyallanhowell@facebook.com](https://www.facebook.com/timothyallanhowell)
[castlehillstimh@twitter.com](https://twitter.com/castlehillstimh)



*Tim Howell
Mayor*

CITY COUNCIL

Tim Howell
Mayor

Lesley Wenger
Place 1

Matthew Daggett
Place 2

John Squire
Place 3, Mayor Pro Tem

Frank Paul
Place 4

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

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Monthly Meetings
All meetings are held at
City Hall unless otherwise posted.

City Council
2nd Tuesday, 6:30pm

Architectural Review Committee
3rd Monday, 7:00pm
Upon Request

Board of Adjustment
3rd Wednesday, 7:00pm
Upon Request

Zoning Commission
1st Tuesday, 7:00pm
Upon Request

Crime Control & Prevention District
3rd Monday, 6:00pm
As Needed

The Circle of Community

By Diane Pfeil, City Manager

As the cold dreary days turn sunny and warmer, I look forward to seeing more and more residents out and about in the neighborhoods. Spring is such a special time as the stark landscapes come alive with beautiful colors. It is also the time more and more people are out and about "freshening" up their yards and houses. I hope more residents also get involved in the city and the "happenings" all over town.

We are not a for-profit business, but our local government strives to be as efficient as possible, through constant self-evaluation and elimination of waste, redundancy, and mismanagement. Our stakeholders and shareholders are not separate entities, they are one in the same, the citizens of this city. We here at city hall strive to give you exemplary service in every interaction you have with your local government. The employees here work tirelessly every day to deliver the premier city services you want and deserve as citizens of this great city.

There are many dynamic projects coming to fruition in the city during this year. It is

my hope that these projects will add more positivity to the overall health and climate of the city.

As I write this, one of the projects has become reality, the Castle Hills Farm to Market had its grand opening and I must say, the city embraced this great event and showed up in droves. Castle Hills Farm to Market will be held every Sunday from 9am-1pm at 2211 NW Military. I can't wait to see what vendors will be bringing each week.

The city's new website is still in the works and moving along right on schedule. The new user friendly interface should make your time on the city's website that much easier and enjoyable!

The street maintenance and repair projects are still underway and even though the road closures will be a minor inconvenience, we ask that you make this sacrifice for the long term sustainability of the city.

The city drainage plan is being developed to help abate some of the drainage issues our city is facing. Flooding has been an ongoing issue in this city, but hopefully this drainage plan will help to slow the problems.

Our city, our community, is the shape of a

circle. We are all connected and there is no true end or beginning in our interactions. Our fates are all intertwined with our daily decisions; be they good or bad.

I cannot be everywhere at once, but with your eyes and ears I can stay abreast of current developments in our city. Our city is at its strongest when we all see the value of our input and work together to make the city better. I encourage you to come by city hall and chat with me about situations you feel need my attention, be it a concern or an accolade.

If you have any issues don't complain to your neighbors and suffer in silence. Bring your issues to the people who can make a difference. Public works welcomes the concerns of the citizens and the police and fire departments take calls 24/7. The court office is open from 7:30 am – 5:30 pm, Monday – Friday. The permit office is open from 8 am – 4:30 pm, Monday – Friday, and code compliance hours are 8 am – 5 pm, Monday - Friday. My office has an open door policy and I am here to assist.

Our family, here at city hall, wish you and your family a wonderful spring season filled with plentiful rain, beautiful flowers and good health!



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Angie's list



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COUNCIL MEETING HIGHLIGHTS



January 13, 2015 – Regular City Council Meeting

- Introduced the new City Secretary, Exzentrius Sturdivant.
- Proclamation given to first responders involved in the Wedgwood fire
- Proclamation given to entities involved in the recovery efforts of the Wedgwood fire
- City Council unanimously passed a motion to approve the fees charged by Public Works, with the exception of the \$30 fee for picking up animals.

February 10, 2015 – Regular City Council Meeting

- The acknowledgement of three excellent city staff, Tina Zelenak, Marcial Rivera, Captain Johnnie Siemens. Tina Zelenak and Captain Johnnie Siemens for their commitment to service and education. Marcial Rivera was acknowledged for his commitment to duty and excellence.
- Passed an ordinance calling for an election in Castle Hills to elect the mayor and three alderman during the May 2015 election.
- Appointed John Kenny to the Crime Control and Prevention District board.

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Castle Hills Police Department

By: Captain Siemens



As with many crimes, vehicle burglaries are often a crime of opportunity. As such, one that can often be minimized or deterred altogether through diligence. Diligence in this arena can be found in following a few simple suggestions. First, it

is paramount that one not only secures their vehicle, but not leave any valuable items readily visible to opportunistic criminals. This entails simply hiding, taking, and locking your vehicles and equally applies to running quick errands, attending a meeting or church, going to the gym, or retiring for the night at your residence. Too often we find ourselves taking reports for a criminal offense, only to learn that the victim elected to leave valuable items in plain view, altogether inviting criminals. Second, make yourself a "hard-target" by parking under lights or in more traveled (pedestrian or vehicular) areas. Lastly, report suspicious activity. I repeat, REPORT SUSPICIOUS ACTIVITY. In many cases, the victim, witnesses, or both observed someone suspicious in the area and merely thought about reporting it as opposed to actually making the call. It is imperative to our collective goals to work together in deterring crime and criminal opportunities, one that is more readily accomplished through a collaborative effort.

"A Lock is Not a Lock Unless it is Locked"



Remember to keep doors and windows locked to harden the target and reduce the opportunity for crime.

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Thank you for Your Generous Donations

by Sergeant Steve Hart, CHPD

Thank you to all Castle Hills' residents and surrounding citizens who generously donated to the 2014 Blue Santa, SA Food Bank and to the Animal Shelter. This was our best year, collecting over three hundred gifts for children and approximately four hundred pounds of food. The animal donation box was in place a little late and donations were down, however, every donation is extremely appreciated. Thanks for helping make the holidays special for all.



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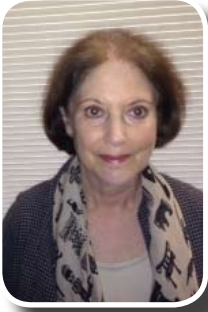
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Council Comments



Lesley Wenger,
Place 1

By the time you read this we should have a new State Representative for District 123 which includes all of Castle Hills and a new State Senator for District 26 which represents the south side of Castle Hills (inside the Loop). The north side of Castle Hills is represented by State Senator Donna Campbell.

Since the resignations of Sen. Van de Putte and Rep. Mike Villarreal—both of whom are running in the San Antonio Mayoral election—we have been largely without representation. As soon as we have the results of the runoff election, which will conclude on Election Day February 17, 2015, I will send an e-mail to let you know the results and what it means to Castle Hills' citizens.

If you are not currently on my e-mail list—which provides real-time updates about the actions and activities that affect residents—and would like to be, please let me know. You can also contact me regarding any questions or concerns you have.

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



John Squire,
PLACE 3

As this newsletter arrives, springtime will be upon us and summer will be right around the corner with all of the associated activities taking place. Fiesta in the Commons and our Fiesta parade, Movies in the Commons courtesy of the Castle Hills Community Organization, and our new weekly Farm to Market are examples of some of the ongoing activities that we have in our City.

As usual, and as it has been my priority, I would like to share my thoughts concerning the ongoing efforts in regards to the repair and maintenance of our streets. City staff along with our professional engineer continue to work on the issues associated with the planning of the resurfacing and rebuilding of the 12 streets that were selected last year. The city reached out to SAWS to encourage that their major infrastructure repairs involving water and wastewater lines located under Castle Hills' city streets be coordinated with the planned street improvements. As a result, we will be closely working with SAWS to upgrade water and wastewater lines that are associated with several of the streets that we will be resurfacing. The good news is this work is happening in an expedited manner, reduces needed street closures, and prevents redundancy in repairs. Once complete, both the street surface and water and wastewater infrastructure will all be improved. Additionally, City staff continue to work on years 2 thru 5 of the street repair plan which will be rolled out as the details are finalized. Also, the ongoing street maintenance continues to be a priority. Depressions, pothole repair, crack sealing, and smaller street cut repairs will continue to take place throughout our city while we continue to work on the major street repairs.

As I close this letter, I just want to say that I truly believe that we live in a great little city where everyone has a voice and can have impact in whatever way they choose. I ask for your involvement in your city, attend your council meetings, volunteer for the organizations within our city, or just come to and enjoy the many events held in Castle Hills.

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 or
- phone – 210-390-4611

Respectfully,
John Squire

SAN ANTONIO SYMPHONY

UPCOMING CONCERTS



**THE BAROQUE SERIES:
THE BRANDENBURG CONCERTOS**
Sunday, March 1, 2015, 7:00 p.m.
San Fernando Cathedral
Akiko Fujimoto, *conductor* | Martha Long, *flute*
Eric Gratz, *violin* | Gösta Funck, *harpsichord*

**THE BAROQUE SERIES:
HANDEL'S MESSIAH**
Thursday, April 2, 2015, 7:30 p.m.
Majestic Theatre
Akiko Fujimoto, *conductor*
San Antonio Symphony Mastersingers
John Silantien, *director*





BUGS BUNNY AT THE SYMPHONY
April 3 & 4, 2015, 8:00 p.m.
Majestic Theatre
George Daugherty, *conductor*
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THE MUSIC OF ABBA
March 6 & 7, 2015, 8:00 p.m.
March 8, 2015, 3:00 p.m.
H-E-B Performance Hall at The Tobin Center
Akiko Fujimoto, *conductor*
Arrival from Sweden, *special guest*

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Frank Paul,
PLACE 4

I am sure we all remember the movie "GROUND HOG DAY". It seems we keep seeing it at recent city council meetings in a never ending discussion whether to keep VIA in the city or not. And last night's council meeting (February 10th) was no exception.

During my 8 months on council the citizens have spoken loudly that they want to keep VIA services in our city. All but two have told me they do not want us to waste anymore time and money on this issue. How can we praise "our Partner" one month and the next month start talking about kicking them out again?

VIA has stepped up and I believe will continue to work with us to remain a vital part of our city. They have started the new route on N.W. Military and have committed to help with some funds for repairs of the streets where the buses go. The future will tell us more. If we get to a point that we need to reach down deep to fix the infrastructure that we all want done, money will need to be gotten somewhere. At this point, the City is operating from current revenues.

I believe the council as a whole has done much to move the city forward. A member of council has given much of their time in working with public works to come up with a good start to working on the streets. Updates are given at each council meeting.

Members of the City Council are also on the drainage and sign committees. Plans were presented last night to get our first ever complete survey and work up that will address the first stages of a comprehensive drainage plan. And the sign committee is coming down to finalizing a contract that will bring in revenue from digital signs along 410.

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
City Council, place 4
fpaul@cityofcastlehills.com



Douglas Gregory,
PLACE 5

Last year, when I was elected to City Council, many of you were frustrated by the old Council's apparent inability to come to grip with infrastructure problems. This year, 1 million dollars will be spent to reconstruct several streets; work of which should begin within a few months.

As Chairman of the new Drainage Committee, it is becoming painfully obvious that our understanding of what must be addressed was underappreciated. Consequently, the new Council has hired an engineering firm to draft a detailed drainage master plan to be presented to the new Council no later than May of this year. We will finally know exactly what must be done, in what order and an estimation of cost.

Our City will reach a consensus on what must be done, the major question is how to finance these programs. It would be nice to fix our streets, correct drainage problems, and continue having first class police, fire and sanitation departments using only the funds on hand. Unfortunately, such is not the case. While new sources of reoccurring revenue might soon exist, funds are limited. In order to retain our excellent police, fire and sanitation services we must determine what infrastructure repairs should be done and in what time frame. These are the two variables; money and time.

Choices on how we address our finances and repairing of our infrastructure will be made over the months and years ahead. It will be an ongoing process that might produce some pain. However, in the end, whatever we choose our problems will be addressed. Demand honesty and clarity from your Councilmember when asking how they believe funding should be done. Be wary of "feel good" solutions. The road ahead will not be short and easy but it will be very satisfying in the end.

Respectfully, Councilman Gregory



The Castle Hills Community Organization (CHCO) kicked the New Year off with its' first general member meeting on Monday, 12 January! New board members and updated mission statement were voted on and approved, as well as, a 2014 event recap and discussion of potential 2015

events and programs took place at this meeting. We appreciate your attendance and thank you for your suggestions and input!

Congratulations to the new CHCO board members:

Stacia Spridgen – President

John Kenny – Vice-President

Kathy Friedrich – Secretary

Debra Reeves – Treasurer

On behalf of CHCO members and new board members, I want to extend a heart-felt thank you to former board members, John Strieb (President), Nancy Batchelder (Vice-President), Trey Batchelder (Treasurer), and Joyce Buie for their dedication and vision in transforming this former homeowners association to the community organization it is today! In January, you received a letter from John Strieb introducing the new Castle Hills Community Organization and an opportunity to join as a member. Please consider joining or renewing your annual membership to continue the opportunity to enjoy special community events and programs. We are also always looking for volunteers to help us!

Contact Stacia Spridgen at spridgensl@hotmail.com or John Kenny at KennyJohnK7802@yahoo.com with CHCO questions, suggestions, or to request to volunteer!



Be a Good Neighbor: Protect Our Water

Did you grow up in a large family, or did you know someone with a lot of children? If so, think about dirty dishes and laundry. As each person placed their dirty dish in the sink, or their clothes in the laundry basket, it didn't take long for them to pile up. Most big families learn the principle of working together early on in life. Each person must do his or her part to keep the piles from taking over the house.

It is no different in our city. We must all do our part to keep the messes from piling up. The way we manage our homes affects our neighbors, especially when it comes to water pollution.

Do you wash your car on the driveway? All of the chemicals and pollutants washed off the car go onto the driveway and become runoff to the street. When it rains, the pollutants are washed further down the road and eventually into the storm sewers. This water ultimately enters our streams, rivers and lakes. When you changed your oil what did you do with the old oil? What about other unwanted chemicals? Don't pour oil or unwanted chemicals on the ground. Soil cannot purify most chemicals. Once again, when it rains the pollutants are washed away to potentially contaminate our water. It only takes one quart of oil to contaminate up to two million gallons of drinking water! Remember, what may seem like a small amount for just one household can add up to a big mess when your neighbors are using the same practices.

So what can you do to be a good neighbor? Don't litter yourself, and try to pick up after those who are not so considerate. Remember that what goes on the ground or in the street or the storm drain may be washed into our precious water resources. Wash the car on the grass or take it to a professional car wash. Whenever possible use non-toxic cleaners. Pick up after your pets and throw the waste away or flush it for proper disposal. When it rains, try to keep the water from running off your property by planting gardens, directing gutters to vegetation, and by minimizing the use of pavement and concrete. Use wood for decks and bricks for walkways and patios. Let the water filter down slowly rather than becoming runoff.

When we hear of big oil spills or big factories that have caused a lot of pollution, we should be concerned, but we need to make sure that we are taking care of what is within our control. The pollution that we cause collectively can be a huge problem! We have not mentioned everything that you can do, but it is really just a matter of awareness and common sense. For references to the information gathered for this article or for more tips, you can visit the Environmental Protection Agency's website at water.epa.gov, or contact the city's stormwater program manager at (210) 342-3991 x203.

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Ribbon Cutting at the Farm to Market Grand Opening
Sunday, February 8, 2015



Exzentrius Sturdivant swearing in John Kenny as
Crime Control and Prevention Board Member.



Exzentrius Sturdivant being sworn-in as City Secretary
by Yolanda Benitez

YOUR COMMUNITY



Joyce Buie (center) is presented with the Citizen of the
Year 2014 award by City Manager Diane Pfeil and
Mayor Tim Howell.



Castle Hills First Responders being honored with a
Proclamation Recognizing Entities Involved in the
Wedgwood Fire



Ribbon Cutting at Alamo Bridal Shop's Grand Opening



Snow!!! Snow Day in Castle Hills



Charles A. Gonzalez, VIA Senior Advisor of External Affairs offers his remarks at the ground breaking for a new bus stop for VIA Bus Route 534 on NW Military Highway



Castle Hills Community Organization hosts Snow Day

Spring into Clean!

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Submitted by – Chief Gerald Riedel

In light of the recent tragic events at the Wedgewood Apartments, I felt it important to re-visit the issue of smoke alarms in your residence. The following information from the National Fire Protection Association is a great guide to smoke detector installation.

It's important to have enough smoke alarms in your home. Fire research has demonstrated that with today's modern furnishings, fires can spread much more rapidly than in the past when more natural materials were used. Because of this, having a sufficient number of properly located smoke alarms is essential to maximize the amount of available escape time. For many years NFPA 72, National Fire Alarm and Signaling Code, has required as a minimum that smoke alarms be installed inside every sleep room (even for existing homes) in addition to requiring them outside each sleeping area and on every level of the home. (Additional smoke alarms are required for larger homes.) Homes built to earlier standards often don't meet these minimum requirements. Homeowners and enforcement authorities should recognize that detection needs have changed over the years and take proactive steps make sure that every home has a sufficient complement of smoke alarms.

Installing smoke alarms

- Choose smoke alarms that have the label of a recognized testing laboratory.
- Install smoke alarms inside each bedroom, outside each sleeping area and on every level of the home, including the basement.
- On levels without bedrooms, install alarms in the living room (or den or family room) or near the stairway to the upper level, or in both locations.
- Smoke alarms installed in the basement should be installed on the ceiling at the bottom of the stairs leading to the next level.
- Smoke alarms should be installed at least 10 feet (3 meters) from a cooking appliance to minimize false alarms when cooking.
- Mount smoke alarms high on walls or ceilings (remember, smoke rises). Wall-mounted alarms should be installed not more than 12 inches away from the ceiling (to the top of the alarm).
- If you have ceilings that are pitched, install the alarm within 3 feet of the peak but not within the apex of the peak (four inches down from the peak).
- Don't install smoke alarms near windows, doors, or ducts where drafts might interfere with their operation.
- Never paint smoke alarms. Paint, stickers, or other decorations could keep the alarms from working.
- For the best protection, interconnect all smoke alarms. When one smoke alarm sounds they all sound. Interconnection can be done using hard-wiring or wireless technology.
- When interconnected smoke alarms are installed, it is important that all of the alarms are from the same manufacturer. If the alarms are not compatible, they may not sound.
- There are two types of smoke alarms – ionization and photoelectric. An ionization smoke alarm is generally more responsive to flaming fires, and a photoelectric smoke alarm is generally more responsive to smoldering fires. For the best protection, both types of alarms or combination ionization-photoelectric alarms, also known as dual sensor smoke alarms, are recommended.
- Keep manufacturer's instructions for reference.

Change the batteries in your smoke detectors when you change your clocks for daylight savings time!

This article and many more articles regarding fire safety can be found at NFPA.org

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Can Spring Be Far Behind?

This article discusses city codes to help you prepare for the spring season.

Planning on Draining or Changing the Water in Your Pool or Hot Tub?

The ordinance that covers the draining of swimming pool water is Chapter 8, Article VI, subsection 8-127(d): "Emptying onto public way prohibited. The owner, tenant, or occupant of any property or residence whatsoever in the city, 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." Simply draining the water onto one's yard is not an option. No one can predict or effectively stop the direction of drainage off of one's topography so it's best to avoid any violation, no matter how slight. Use the pool's drain system or hire a pump truck but please do not simply lay out a drain pipe and hope for the best.

What is Debris and How Can I Disposal of Debris?

For spring cleaning, anything other than what City Public Works normally disposes of will be treated as debris. Debris could mean, but is not limited to: soil, landscaping material of any sort including excessive brush, old appliances, old or new fencing materials or construction materials of any kind including slag and tailings from any sort of project (just to name a very few examples). If you have a large amount of tree branches, for example, the best way to dispose them while using City resources would be to simply "meter out" the amount that City Public Works will haul away (which is defined as no more than three [3]-thirty gallon cans or the equivalent) every week. You can get a cost estimate for debris removal by calling City Public works at 342-2341 x 206 or arrange for a private disposal company to haul away items. Keep in mind that no matter how you plan to remove the item(s), debris cannot be visible from any public right-of-way unless removal is being accomplished at that moment. Leaf removal information can be found in Section 36-33,"Leaves" found at https://www.municode.com/library/tx/castle_hills/codes/code_of_ordinances (every code can be found here).

How Can I Keep Myself and My Family Safe From Mosquitoes?

Last year I fielded several calls with concerns about

mosquito abatement. While the City has no ordinance specifying mosquito prevention, our Health Inspector has created a mosquito abatement information sheet which we will have available on the City website in the next few weeks. Of note for the upcoming mosquito season, Section 303.1 of the International Property Code 2012 (adopted by the City) which states "Swimming pools shall be maintained in a clean and sanitary condition, and in good repair", will be aggressively enforced in order to alleviate potential mosquito as well as public health and safety concerns. Mosquitoes breed quickly and even in small amounts of water such as in saucers under potted plants, bird baths, or any standing water. Check your yard frequently for these sources of water and potential mosquito breeding sites. Be safe and as always, you can call in code concerns to me at 342-2341 x 221.

L. Zamarron
Code Compliance Investigator



Shweiki

City of Castle Hills Local Restaurants Recognized



During 2014 local food service operations in Castle Hill were awarded a Texas Food Safety Star Certificate by local health officials. The Texas Food Safety Star is similar to New York City's Golden Apple Award that was used several years ago. The Texas Star program recognizes local food service operations going the extra mile for food safety.

Operations receiving the Texas Food Safety Star Certificate during 2014 include: Dough's Pizza, Picnikins Patio Cafe, Burger King and Tokyo Gardens Sushi at HEB.

To receive the certificate a food service establishment must meet the following criteria: (1) Managers and Supervisors are certified in Food Safety Management and are able to demonstrate food safety knowledge and skills during routine evaluations; (2) have an Active Food Safety Management System with written food safety policies and procedures in place; (3) provide employees continuing training in food safety; (4) continually exceed minimum food code requirements and; (5) conduct food safety self- evaluations. If requested, foodservice facilities will be provided assistance in establishing an active food safety management system with written policies and procedures and also provided materials for use in training employees in food safety.

So far the following foodservice operations in Castle Hills have been awarded the Texas Food Safety Star Certificate in recognition of their food safety efforts: Jimmy's Egg; Rossini's Bistro; Sushihana; HEB; Homewood Residence; Castle Hills Elementary School; Jackson Keller Elementary School; Dough's Pizza, Picnikins Patio Cafe, Burger King and Tokyo Gardens Sushi at HEB.

Submitted by: Homer Emery, Registered Sanitarian

JOINT GENERAL AND SPECIAL ELECTION MAY 9, 2015 Early Voting - April 27, 2015 – May 5, 2015

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
	April 27 8am-6pm	April 28 8am-6pm	April 29 8am-6pm	April 30 8am-6pm	May 1 8am-6pm	May 2 8am-8pm
May 3 Polls Closed	May 4 8am-8pm	May 5 8am-8pm End of Early Voting	May 6	May 7	May 8	May 9 Election Day



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Info@NeighborhoodNews.com
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