

May 2015

The Castle Hills **Reporter**

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Message From the Mayor



*Tim Howell
Mayor*

The Perfect Storm Has Passed

The past year has presented the city with many obstacles, challenges and even tragedy, but now the seas have calmed and the focus has returned to city business. The council has settled in and is working as a team to represent the citizens of Castle Hills fairly, openly and responsibly. At the April city council meeting, the council tackled a 22-item agenda and stayed late to ensure all agenda items were carefully considered.

I offer tremendous thanks to the Street Committee comprised of Mayor Pro Tem John Squire, City Manager Diane Pfeil, Public Works Director Rick Harada, and Public Works Administrator Leanne Collins. Their dedicated work, combined with the engineering knowledge of Mr. Squire, has moved the city Street Maintenance and Management program from a discussion to reality. Twelve streets in 2015 – Year 1 of the process – are in the bidding phase, and repairs will begin in the near future. With this team at the helm of this project we will see progress moving full steam ahead on this multi-year process.

The street maintenance and repairs will only be successful if they are supported by improvements to stormwater drainage. These two infrastructures are dependent on each other, and they cannot be addressed individually and expect success. Councilman Douglas Gregory has served on past drainage planning committees, including holding the post of Chairman, and brings a wealth of knowledge to this discussion. The city engineer is compiling data as a comprehensive drainage plan is being developed to serve as the guide for infrastructure maintenance, future development, and even remedies to some of our flooding issues. The city has paired these projects with the SAWS repair and maintenance projects planned in Castle Hills to provide a more unified, fiscally-responsible approach to streets and drainage maintenance. Again, with these tactics and leadership, we expect to see progress moving full steam ahead.

At the April council meeting, the Digital Sign Committee recommended awarding the digital sign contract to Clear Channel Communications. The city council approved this recommendation, clearing the way for the installation of two digital billboards in Castle Hills. This contract will generate unencumbered income to the city annually that will provide vital funding for streets and drainage maintenance.

I believe with the combination of all these committees, our city staff and the city council working together, we have a clear path to a vastly improved infrastructure that will ensure that navigating Castle Hills in the future is smooth sailing.

I wish you a happy and safe summer, and hope to meet you on the newly resurfaced walking track at the Commons!

Warm Regards,

Timothy A. Howell
Mayor
Castle Hills, Texas
210.535.9094

www.cityofcastlehills.com
timothyallanhowell@yahoo.com
mayer@cityofcastlehills.com

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

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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 Castle Hills Volunteer

By – Diane Pfeil, City Manager

As the spring showers become sparse, and the weather becomes more favorable for outside activities stop by city hall and volunteer some of your time. For people that know me, it is commonplace for me to volunteer most of my spare time. It personally gives me so much satisfaction. I previously worked for a land grant university, Texas A&M, and we relied on volunteers to help us fulfill our mission. So many diverse personalities working for one common goal can move mountains.

There are many boards, committees, and events that are available for you to bring your unique gifts and talents. Not only will you be fulfilled from the rewards of volunteering, but you'll benefit the city through tax dollars saved and benefit yourself through the networking opportunities.

The City of Castle Hills although small in square miles has a large variety of volunteer opportunities. The city has the Architectural Review Committee, the Board of Adjustment, the Crime Control and Prevention District Board, and the Zoning Commission. Even though some boards and commissions are full; you can always volunteer as an alternate or just come to a meeting and let your voice be heard.

Not only are there amazing boards and commissions, but there are also events to volunteer for, including the Annual Easter Egg Hunt, Fiesta Castle Hills, and the Halloween Carnival. These

wonderful community building events require breakdown, set up, and supervision. If none of those suit you, there's always simple landscaping in the Commons. It always helps to clear your mind to "dig in the dirt" we gardeners say. The City also has court at least twice a month. We can always use help checking people in and assisting them while in court.

You can also start talking to your neighbors and community members about scheduling a block party for the upcoming National Night Out event in October. It's never too early to get know someone, and strengthening your neighborhood community.

The Castle Hills Community Organization is always looking for new members and help with all of the activities that are happening. Movie night in the Commons seems to grow each month.

Volunteering for the city is not only satisfying, but you become a good steward of tax dollars. You ensure your tax dollars are spent more efficiently, rather than paying an outside entity to do things that we could take care of ourselves. If you would like to explore some volunteer opportunities, come by city hall and let's chat.

With that said, I hope you have a great summer filled with family fun. If you decide to travel out of town for a few days, make sure to let a neighbor know and call city hall (342-2341) and alert the police department to schedule drive by checks at your residence.

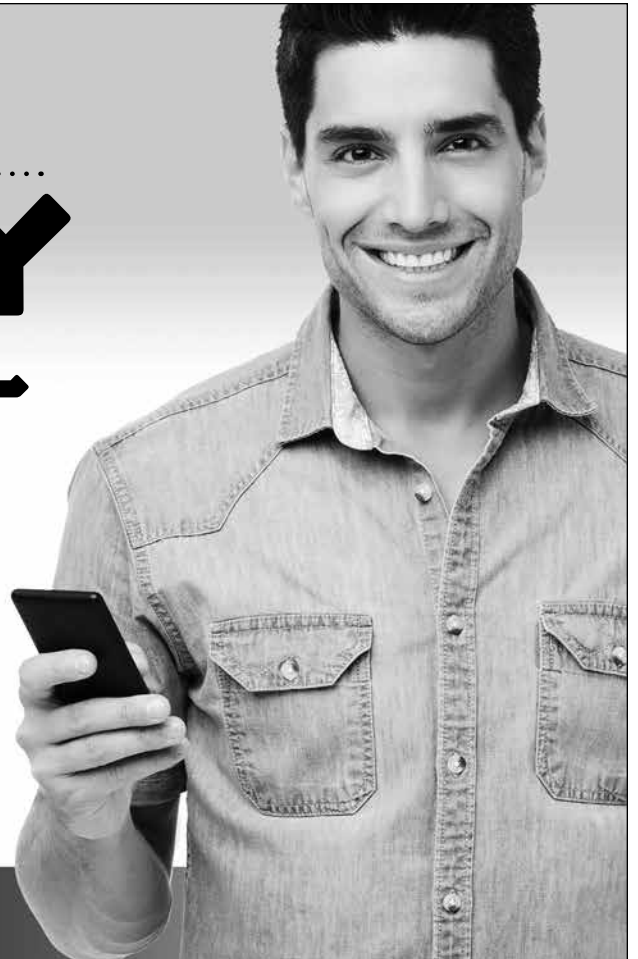
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COUNCIL MEETING HIGHLIGHTS



March 10, 2015 - Regular City Council Meeting

- Mayor Howell presented Mr. John Strieb with a Certificate of Appreciation.
- Mayor Howell presented Mr. and Mrs. Batchelder with a Certificate of Appreciation.
- Introduction of New City Employees:
 - Police Officer Anthony Vain
 - Police Officer Christa Castellanos
 - Dispatcher Larry Inman
- Police Chief Wayne Davis recognized Captain Johnny Siemens for the Medal of Valor Award he received from the City of Boerne.
- The Castle Hills Woman's Club presented a check of \$2,960 for fitness equipment, to the Castle Hills Police Department.
- Council unanimously approved the application from Fiesta Restaurant Group regarding the construction of the proposed fast food restaurant.
- Council agreed unanimously to allow the City Manager to execute a contract to replace the decomposed granite at the track of the Commons.

April 14, 2015 - Regular City Council Meeting

- Plaque of Appreciation was presented to Joyce Buie.
- Fiesta Castle Hills Proclamation presented to Richard and Marianne Huizar.
- There was a presentation of a donation from Treco Enterprises Inc. given to the Castle Hills Police Department.
- Introduction of New City Employee:
 - Municipal Court Clerk Maria Christine Felan
- Council approved the recommendation of the digital billboard committee and instructed the Mayor to negotiate a license agreement to implement the committee's recommendation.
- Council unanimously agreed to instruct the city attorney to prepare the documentation required to call an election on May 14, 2016 to consider a proposition on the question of continuing VIA in the City of Castle Hills.
- Council passed an ordinance amending Chapter 38, Streets, Sidewalks and Other Public Places by Repealing Article VI, Parades and Other Gatherings, designating current Article VII, Work in Right of Way, of Chapter 38 as New Article VI, and by adopting a new Chapter 29, Parades and Other Gatherings.
- Council passed an ordinance establishing a schedule of fees for various city permits and city licenses and services and repealing all fees in conflict with this new schedule of fees.
- Council approved the changing of the hours of operation for the permit window at City Hall.
- Council passed an ordinance amending Chapter 1 – General provisions, of the code of ordinances by adopting Section 1-21 prohibiting the issuance of permits or licenses and prohibiting the appointment to a Board, Commission or Committee, of any individual, business, or corporation with any outstanding debts owed to the City of Castle Hills.
- Council unanimously approved modifying the form of the official minutes of City Council meetings to use video recordings in conjunction with written minutes prepared by the City Secretary as authorized by Section 551.021 of the Texas Government Code.

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Summer Time!

Greetings citizens,

We hope everyone had a great fiesta and now it is time for summer. We find ourselves looking forward to going on vacation, which means you will be away from your home. As always, we encourage you to call us prior to leaving and place yourself on our "patrol by" list. This is very important on several fronts.

First – prior to officers going out on patrol, each shift, they print up a list of residents who are out of town and on the list. At random times time during an eight hour shift an officer will drive by and visually inspect your residence. Officers are looking for things that may be out of place, and/or for specific details on the patrol by list, or more importantly not on the list. Example – if you inform the dispatcher when placing yourself on the patrol by list that there will be no vehicles in your driveway and an officer notices a vehicle they will investigate further. On the other hand if you specify there will be a vehicle in your driveway and there is not one this will prompt the officer to investigate.

Another benefit for our patrol by program, is not specifically a benefit for the actual resident who is out of town; it is for all residents in the neighborhood. You see, when an officer is on the way to check your specific house he/she is inadvertently patrolling the neighborhoods which benefits everyone. Our officers commonly patrol our neighborhoods, but this is just an additional tool that directs them to specific areas throughout the city. It's a good thing for you, and a bad thing for the opportunistic criminal to see our patrol cars in your neighborhood. Hope this gives you some insight on the thought process and benefits of our patrol by program.



Have a safe summer!

Wayne Davis

Chief, Castle Hills

Change in Permit Window Hours

In an effort to better serve all our permit customers, the permit window has changed the hours of operation. The new hours are:

Monday	8:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.
Tuesday	8:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.
Wednesday	8:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.
Thursday	8:00 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.
Friday	8:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

The new hours allows staff to set appointments for contractors, developers and citizens in the late afternoon. Staying open late on Thursdays allows citizens who are planning weekend projects an opportunity to meet with permit staff after regular business hours.



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Council Comments



Lesley Wenger,
Place 1

While you will not receive this newsletter until after our city election, the issue of who appears on our Voter Registration Lists is a continuing problem. For example, the most recent list still contains about half of the former Wedgwood residents who have not yet re-registered at their new addresses. This may be corrected when they next appear at a polling site and are asked for their current address.

Other former residents, long gone, also continue to appear on the list. Some moved away years ago and either did not re-register, moved to another state or re-registered in a County that does not notify Bexar Elections.

Deaths that occur in Bexar County are immediately reported to the Elections Department, but those outside the County or State are not reported.

These former residents continue to appear on the rolls because relatives who still reside in Castle Hills do not mail the voter registration cards back when they arrive. In other instances new homeowners also do not return the cards of prior owners. Instead the cards are tossed out.

If you would like to clean up our Registration List, just write on the card(s) that arrive for people no longer residing at your address: NOT HERE, MOVED or DECEASED, and stick it in your mailbox. No stamp is required, the card will be returned to Bexar Elections and the individual(s) will be removed from the next list.

Please let me know if you have any questions or issues you would like addressed.

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



Matthew Daggett,
Place 2

Hello Neighbors!

Welcome to spring in our beautiful neighborhood. As you read this hopefully the green pollen of our oak trees has washed away by the much need spring rains. These rains hopefully will not bring flooding again to our city as we have seen in the past. Very soon council will be presented with a master drainage plan for our city so that we may assess the drainage needs throughout our city and associated cost. Council and I assigned our engineers to develop this plan. This plan has never been done for our city before. These drainage improvements will be correlated with our street improvements so that our tax dollars are used most efficiently to solve our infrastructure needs, so that we won't be repaving streets, and then later have to come back and redo them to fix a drainage issue. If you have wondered why a particular poor condition street was not on the recent list of streets to be redone is because that street may have a drainage issue that will be addressed by the drainage plan that we will receive. You should start seeing some of our streets get repaved in the next few months.

I have heard from numerous residents still wondering what the purpose of the coating the city put on some of our streets. This coating was called Reclamite which is a process that is used on our streets in better shape to extend the life of them. It is not a cosmetic fix, as some residents have thought. It is done to bring back elasticity and reduce the chance of cracking. This will extend the life of the better streets so we can focus on the more needy streets first.

Council was presented with a digital billboard proposal to install two signs on Loop 410. These signs will bring in approximately 200k per year for the next 25 years. We will earmark this money to go directly to streets and drainage. Council also voted to place VIA on the ballot in May 2016 so that the residents and city may get accurate information to make an informed vote.

Please get involved and attend city council meetings and make your voice heard. Call or email me with any concerns or questions.

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John Squire,
PLACE 3

As I write this newsletter, our April City council meeting is fresh on my mind. As a result of this meeting I am glad to say that we continue to make progress on the issues that face our city. One of the issues that was brought forward is for our community to vote in May of 2016 to decide whether or not we continue to stay with our current MTA (i.e. VIA) was passed by council. This is a big issue, and it is my hope, that with honest debate, the facts will be presented on the pros and cons of continuing with VIA and how this decision will affect our city for the future. We must consider the benefits that VIA provides with their services for our citizens and resources that they bring to our community to what we individually believe is in the best interest for City of Castle Hills.

Another item that came forward and passed, was the decision to now additionally put our videotaped council meetings out on YouTube via our web site to provide easier access to the recorded meetings. I am a strong proponent of this, in that the transparency and accessibility of our local government is one item that I believe is crucial to our success as a city, and that this item was one more way that we can continue to get more people to be involved and informed.

Additionally, an agenda item was passed to contract with Clear Channel Communications to place two electronic billboards along Loop 410. This will bring an additional \$190,000 in revenue to our city annually along with a onetime contract signing bonus of \$190,000. It is my intent that we should direct these additional funds into our infrastructure so we can continue to improve our streets.

Finally, and as usual, I would like to discuss the ongoing efforts in regards to the repair and maintenance of our streets. The bid packages, as developed by our staff and our engineering consultants, will be out for contractors to bid on. These bids will be for resurfacing of the first set of streets that were designated for major repairs. In addition, the ongoing street maintenance continues and all of the major crack sealing will have been completed for now. Streets that have serious depressions, continued pothole repair, and smaller street cuts and drainage repairs will continue to take place throughout the rest of the year.

As I close, I continue to ask for your involvement in your 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 or
- phone – 210-390-4611



Frank Paul,
PLACE 4

VIA continues to be a topic of conversation in our city. At the April 14th council meeting a vote was taken to put VIA on the ballot for May 2016. It passed unanimously.

That timing is to allow all who want to remove VIA to come up with a plan to service those who need/want a VIA TRANS type service in the city. And there needs to be a thoughtful process on how the city can recapture the funds from the sales tax. To be clear, the city does not pay VIA a cent. VIA receives its funds from a 1/2 cent tax from the sales taxes collected in our city.

And this year long period will allow those that wish to keep VIA as a city service to do their homework as well. There should be a number of town hall meetings to discuss all the issues relating to this very important issue.

Frank Paul
City Council, place 4
fpaul@cityofcastlehills.com



Douglas Gregory,
PLACE 5

By the time you read this message, our City Engineers should have presented to the City Council a clear overview of a master plan concerning our drainage situation. The cost of addressing this problem will be substantial and funds must be raised.

Before the Council can ask to increase your property tax rate, every potential revenue source must be found.

As Chairman of the Digital Sign Committee, I can report that if the Council approves a contract with Clear Channel Communications, a new stream of annual revenues should begin. Two digital signs will be erected on Loop 410 and from this agreement annual funds should flow into the City for many years to come. At a future Council meeting I will introduce a motion to dedicate all of these future funds to infrastructure repairs.

In April, the City Council directed our City Attorney to construct the wording on some possible future ballot to determine whether or not to retain VIA. However, it must also determine where the approximately \$500,000 in annual sales tax revenue could go. Leaving VIA is meaningless if the sales tax revenue is not captured by the City.

(Continued on page 8)

Douglas Gregory,
PLACE 5, Continued.

This economic/political question presents to mother of all pocketbook issues. I hope that those who wish to retain VIA as well as those who want Castle Hills to gain access to this enormous stream of new revenue, will debate the issue with facts and not deliberate misleading statements. We must have answers to such questions as:

Exactly upon which Castle Hills streets does VIA travel? (Remember NW Military Highway is a State street and the perimeter streets of Lockhill Selma, Blanco and Jackson-Keller are San Antonio streets.)

Would there be significant negative economic impact of at least \$500,000 every year if VIA no longer travels upon Castle Hills' streets?

What does VIA do with the approximately \$500,000 they currently receive every year? Do they use the money to repair San Antonio streets? Do they share the money with TXDOT? We have started down that long road of upgrading our streets combined with a new master drainage plan to address flooding. We have dedicated employees, excellent City services and a sound tax base. It is time to discuss and act upon the most important pocketbook issue we will ever have the opportunity to decide. Get the facts and whatever happens, the future is in our hands.

Respectfully,
 Councilman Gregory

ANNIVERSARIES

10-years

Paul Turner, Police Department

5-years

James Cheatham, Police Department

Robert Garza, Police Department

NEW EMPLOYEES

Exzentrius Sturdivant, Administration

Anthony Vain, Police Department

Christa Castellanos, Police Department

Larry Inman, Dispatch

Cesar Losoya, Public Works

Christine Felan, Municipal Court

The Risk of Eating

Submitted by Homer Emery, R.S.



If you're concerned about eating only "pure" or "safe" foods, then you may not want to eat anything at all. Certainly, don't order raw oysters on the half-shell; dine out; and by all means avoid consuming foods prepared in your own kitchen. All of these have a "risk" of foodborne illness.

In the early 1900's a foodborne illness outbreak involving raw oysters caused the death of more than 120 people in the New York area. Today, oyster harvesting beds are tested for contamination and oysters for human consumption must be purchased from suppliers harvesting oysters only from approved growing beds. In addition, restaurants serving raw oysters must maintain detailed records for 90 days from the dated served. In Texas, restaurants are also required to provide the following health warning to advise customers of the increased health risk of consuming raw oysters and certain other items: "consuming raw or undercooked meats, poultry, seafood, shellfish, or eggs may increase your risk of foodborne illness." The good news is that raw oysters can be treated after being harvested to reduce harmful bacteria to what is considered safe levels. Postharvest processing methods commercially available include pasteurization and high hydrostatic pressure processing.

The highest risk of food borne illness can likely be found in your home kitchen. Are foods stored in your refrigerator below 41 degrees F? Do you have at least two cutting boards? One for raw meats and one for produce? Do you have a food thermometer to check final cooking temperatures, especially hamburger patties being grilled for the kids? If you answered No to any of the above questions you may want to obtain a copy of USDA's Kitchen Companion guide. This guide can help you in making your home kitchen a "Food Safe Kitchen." A copy of the Kitchen Companion can be found at the following Website: <http://foodsafesa.squareSPACE.com/food-safe-kitchen/>.

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Spring is Here...
Save our Streets - Avoid Overwatering!

Article submitted by Public Works

Happy Spring Castle Hills! It's that time of year when grasses and shrubbery are growing at a rapid pace, and everyone is outside tending lawns, plants and bushes. There has not been much rain this year so many of us are spending more time watering as well.

We want to remind everyone to please be extra careful not to overwater. It is important for each of us to be aware of our water usage, not only to conserve during the drought, but also to help preserve the underlying structure of our Castle Hills streets.

When excess water runs into the streets and alleys, it carries dirt and debris along with it. The water runoff seeps in between the seams of the paved streets and erodes the base. This base erosion eventually results in cracks that show up in the asphalt surface. (In fact, many of you may have noticed our Street crews applying crack sealer to some of the streets these past few months.)

The excess water runoff also contributes to erosion in the unpaved alleys, resulting in ruts, potholes and depressions. When the topsoil in the alleys is washed away, it ends up in the drainage channels as sediment deposits. Eventually when the excess water evaporates, the sediment deposits stick to the streets and drains, and must be scraped off using shovels and other equipment.

If everyone works together to avoid excess water runoff into the streets and alleys, it will help to reduce asphalt cracking and alley erosion, and will help keep the city street repairs and cleaning costs down. We highly recommend that everyone avoid overwatering by following the drought watering regulations from San Antonio Water Systems.

SAWS Drought Restrictions:

Water waste is prohibited at all times. Water waste includes allowing water to run off into a gutter, ditch, or drain; or failing to repair a controllable leak. This includes lawn watering overspray and runoff. Washing impervious cover such as



parking lots, driveways, streets or sidewalks is prohibited at all times.

Stage 1: Watering with an irrigation system, sprinkler or soaker hose is allowed only once a week before 11a.m. or after 7p.m. on your designated watering day.

Stage 2: Watering with an irrigation system, sprinkler or soaker hose is allowed only once a week from 7-11a.m. and 7-11p.m. on your designated watering day. Watering with drip irrigation or 5-gallon bucket is permitted any day, but only between 7-11a.m. and 7-11p.m.

Stage 3 & 4: Watering with an irrigation system, sprinkler or soaker hose is allowed only EVERY OTHER WEEK, from 7-11a.m. and 7-11p.m. on your designated watering day. Watering with drip irrigation is allowed every Monday, Wednesday and Friday, but only from 7-11a.m. and 7-11p.m.

(Visit: www.saws.org/conservation/droughtrestrictions/ for more detailed information.)

Thank you for helping to avoid excess water runoff by following the guidelines, and working together to extend the life of our city streets.

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Grilling Safety Tips from the National Fire Protection Association

Fire in the grill, under hot dogs and burgers, is a welcome sight at the family cookout. But fire anywhere else can make your summer kick-off barbecue memorable for all the wrong reasons.

- Propane and charcoal BBQ grills should only be used outdoors.
- The grill should be placed well away from the home, deck railings and out from under eaves and overhanging branches.
- Keep children and pets away from the grill area.
- Keep your grill clean by removing grease or fat buildup from the grills and in trays below the grill.
- Never leave your grill unattended.

**For these and other great safety tips
visit www.nfpa.org**



CHARCOAL GRILLS

- There are several ways to get the charcoal ready to use. Charcoal chimney starters allow you to start the charcoal using newspaper as a fuel.
- If you use a starter fluid, use only charcoal starter fluid. Never add charcoal fluid or any other flammable liquids to the fire.
- Keep charcoal fluid out of the reach of children and away from heat sources.
- There are also electric charcoal starters, which do not use fire. Be sure to use an extension cord for outdoor use.
- When you are finished grilling, let the coals completely cool before disposing in a metal container.

PROPANE GRILLS

- Check the gas tank hose for leaks before using it for the first time each year. Apply a light soap and water solution to the hose. A propane leak will release bubbles. If your grill has a gas leak, by smell or the soapy bubble test, and there is no flame, turn off the gas tank and grill. If the leak stops, get the grill serviced by a professional before using it again. If the leak does not stop, call the fire department. If you smell gas while cooking, immediately get away from the grill and call the fire department. Do not move the grill.

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Important Information

This news article will address the upcoming road milling and resurfacing project, emptying of swimming pool water (revisited) and debris removal.

In the coming months, crews will be milling and resurfacing several roads in Castle Hills. The machines used by these crews have a tall vertical clearance and low hanging tree limbs/branches are a hindrance to the safe and effective operation of the machinery. It is important that each property owner abutting a public right-of-way, either belonging to the city or state, act proactively and trim back trees limbs/branches, as per the Code of Ordinances which states that:

"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 obstruct 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." (Sec. 48-137. - Height and placement restrictions.)

If, during the road work, any tree is found to be violation of the 12 foot minimum clearance as stated above, City Public Works personnel will trim back the offending limbs/branches and will charge the property owner for the work performed, as provided for in the Code. Remember that any tree trimming requires a permit which can be obtained at City Hall. There is no fee if the actual work will be performed by the property owner. Professional tree trimming services/companies are required to obtain and pay for a permit. For residential properties, oak work is a \$50 fee and non-oak work is \$25. For commercial properties the fee is \$75 per ground acreage (as noted with the County Appraisal District) and NOT cumulative tree acreage). In all cases, please keep in mind that for oak work, personnel providing the actual trimming "shall paint the wound within one hour of the cutting, trimming, pruning or wounding of the tree with opaque paint to prevent contact with contaminated nitidulid beetles." (Sec. 48-107. - Painting of wounds to oak trees.)

Next, I will revisit last newsletter's information regarding the draining of swimming pool water onto a public right-of-way. Please recall that a public-right-of-way is any road, sidewalk, curb, pavement or alley way with the City limits. The Code states that "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



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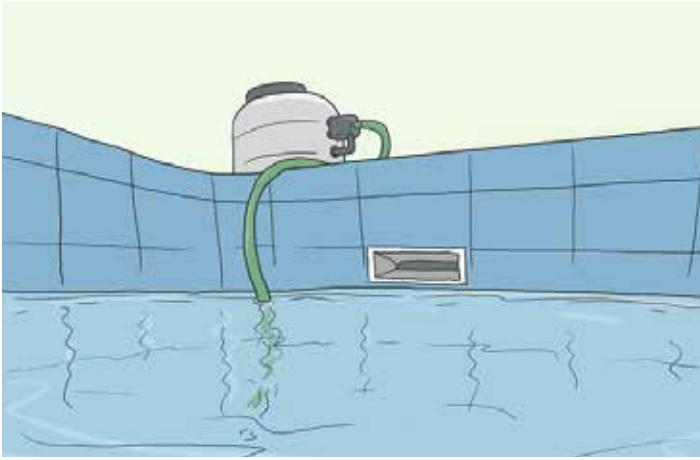
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the swimming pool in any manner whatsoever that causes or permits any amount of water therefrom to reach any street, alley, or public way in the city." (Sec. 8-178. - Swimming pools.) This is a serious issue for erosion control, life span of street surfaces and introduction of potentially harmful substances onto yards or the storm water system. If draining of pool water in such a manner is detected, work will be ordered stopped immediately and the resident (not the contractor) may be directly cited into court.

Finally, I would like to remind citizens of the disposal of leaves, brush and other items. Public works has relaxed the seasonal nature of leaf pick-up to be all year round on your first

garbage day (only once a week) and not simply during certain months. The limit language still applies; ten (10) thirty (30) gallon bags of leaves per week (Sec. 36-33. - Leaves). For brush, public works will collect no more than the equivalent of three 32-gallon garbage cans of brush at one pick-up and no brush that is more than three inches in diameter or more than five feet in length will be collected (Sec. 36-32 – Brush). Please set out only the limit, as stated above. Any "extra" amount shall result no collection of the any items and this, then, becomes a "Debris on Property" Code violation (Sec. 26-117. - Prohibition of weeds, high grass, and debris). As for all other items other than "trash", the Code states that "The term "trash" does not include building materials, debris resulting from building or repair activities, motor oil, or hazardous chemicals." (Article I. - In General. Sec. 36-1. – Definitions). Please do not place these items (including appliances of any nomenclature) out for pick-up as public works will not dispose of them and a Code violation will result.

Thank you for your time and your continued support for this beautiful city. As always, please report any violations or things you think may be violations to me and I will investigate. Please recall that every citizen who is in violation of the Code is allowed due process.

L. Zamarron
Code Compliance Investigator

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YOUR COMMUNITY



Annual Easter egg hunt at the Commons.



The Easter Bunny, along with Gregg and Joshua Bell, at the annual Easter egg hunt at the Commons.



Annual Easter egg hunt at the Commons.



The Mayor with new employees to the Police Department. L to R Dispatcher Larry Inman, Mayor Howell, Officer Anthony Vain, and Officer Christa Castellanos.



Castle Hills Women's Club presenting a check to the Castle Hills Police Department for the purchase of new exercise equipment.



Photographer, CHFD Lt. Darrell Dover

The new walkway in the commons.

go green

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Questions? Feel free to contact Neighborhood News at (210) 558-3160 with any website-related questions.



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The Castle Hills Community Organization (CHCO) annual Easter egg hunt was a hip-hopping success with over 200 attendees, adults and children. Thank you to Generations Federal Credit Union for sponsoring the petting zoo courtesy of Fiesta Farms and our volunteers, Kristina, Harrison, and Jacqueline Fentress, Sig and Ben Izbrand, and Michael Joyce!

We could not organize these events without our volunteers! Thank you!

Friday night at the movies in the Castle Hills Commons kicks off the summer on May 1st. Bring your popcorn and blanket and enjoy the movies the first Friday of the month through October. No movie night in July or September due to the holidays.

To ensure our members feel CHCO membership is of value, the board is considering "member only" events through the year. We would love to hear your ideas! We will share more information in the near future as events are planned.

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



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Man of Steel

5 June
Big Hero Six

7 August
TBD

2 October
Mama Mia

24 October (Halloween Party)
Goonies

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Coupon expires at the end of the 2015 summer season.

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