

JANUARY 2016

The Castle Hills **Reporter**

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Message from Mayor Howell p. 2
City Manager – A Year In Review p. 3-4
Council Comments p. 5-8
City Council Meeting Highlights p. 8
New Businesses p. 9

Message from Chief Davis – Happy New Year p. 9
Public Works – Hazardous Materials p. 10
2015 Code Compliance Review p.11
Escape Planning p. 12
Your Community p. 14

Message From the Mayor



*Tim Howell
Mayor*

Happy New Year! I hope that you have profound goals and hope for 2016. As Mayor, I know that I have great expectations and optimism for the City of Castle Hills. I would like to extend my thanks to the Council, City Manager Diane Pfeil, Fire Chief Riedel, Police Chief Davis, Director of Public Works Rick Harada, and all of the city staff who day in and day out provide stellar customer service, dedicated work ethics, and innovative ideas making Castle Hills a great place. As I have mentioned in previous articles, City Manager Pfeil has written on the big dry erase board in her office "One City...One Team". I think I might write below that message a quote from Henry Ford – "Do not find fault, find a remedy." This is the mindset demonstrated by the city staff. This pervasive attitude demonstrates sensible, sound judgment to achieve reasonable rational goals and solutions.

For the city to efficiently operate we must have the proper tools in the proverbial tool box. For example, the police and fire personnel are required by state regulations to annually meet specific training schedules. This ensures they are current on changes in legislation, proficient in equipment, and best equipped physically, mentally, and technically for their duties. The training exposes staff to new concepts and better methods by interfacing with instructors and other police and fire professionals. City ordinances are routinely reviewed by staff and legal counsel to ensure they are current and compliant with state laws, Supreme Court rulings, and many other standards. Currently, the Zoning Review Committee is diligently researching and discussing renovations to the city zoning code. City codes are living documents that require arduous review and the current review committee is fully committed to vetting all concepts to provide the best product for consideration by the Zoning Commission and the City Council. The updated website is a contemporary tool to provide timely information that is readily available from a multitude of electronic devices literally from practically anywhere in the world. Like the city codes, the website is a living forum that needs daily attention which staff constantly monitors and improves. The tools needed for a successful city are as diverse as the three examples I have cited. In 2016, we will continue to ensure the proper tools are available for the city.

As Mayor, and as a businessman, I reflect on the skills needed of an effective manager and what tools I should possess as part of a management team. Max De Pree, an American businessman, and the son of D.J. De Pree founder of Herman Miller office furniture company offers great insight in the statement "Management has a lot to do with answers. Leadership is a function of questions. And the first question for a leader always is: 'Who do we intend to be?' Not 'What are we going to do?' but 'Who do we intend to be?'". The city staff is up to the challenges of generating the questions and providing the answers. The Mayor, City Council and City Manager need to provide the leadership to determine "Who do we intend to be?"

I am excited about the possibilities that come with the New Year. Our infrastructure projects are proceeding as planned with the funding provided in the budget. The strength and principles of democracy will again offer the opportunity for voters to cast their votes for council seats and the issues of local taxation during the spring election cycle. Castle Hills is the jewel and I am committed to asking the first question of "who do we intend to be?" today and into the future. Please feel free to contact me with your ideas or remedies for your concerns. "One City....One Team" includes our citizens as well!

Warm Regards,

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

CITY COUNCIL

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Mayor

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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, 5:30pm
As Needed

A YEAR IN REVIEW...AND LOOKING AHEAD

By Diane Pfeil, City Manager

Castle Hills is a small urban town located in the middle of a much larger metropolitan area. Being centrally located offers us convenience and accessibility to much of the larger community, San Antonio.

Our "small town" atmosphere with beautiful tree canopies and large lots will always be what makes Castle Hills so unique and desirable. Our sense of community is admired by many of our neighboring cities.

It is my goal as your city manager, to deliver premier city services in a manner that is both operationally effective and fiscally efficient. Growing our city's tax base, exploring new revenue streams, identifying cost savings and efficiencies, and making Castle Hills cleaner, greener and safer have been priorities of mine. This past year was full of success and significant steps were made on all these fronts.

Public Safety

We started the year responding to the tragedy of the Wedgewood fire. Staff responded and performed in an exemplary manner while assisting our displaced residents. During the fire we had more than 200 people from a multitude of agencies assisting the city. The Castle Hills staff was front and center and stepped up to the plate on this one. They worked tirelessly and now this tragedy has turned into a nationwide model of what went right. All agencies worked in tandem to assist with the displaced residents and bring a sense of normalcy back to their lives. A list of housing options was compiled in a Relocation Resource Guide that include contacts for retirement communities, government agencies, medical resources, meal providers and other services. The resources listed in this guide, which are not all-inclusive, provided a sampling of resources that can be utilized toward the transition process. This guide is still being used today.

As we went through the recovery process of the Wedgwood, Chief Riedel and I became aware of a program that was offered through FEMA and the Bexar County Office of Emergency Management, Community Emergency Response Team (CERT). In fact, members of this volunteer group assisted us during the tragedy. A Castle Hills CERT was trained on disaster preparedness for the neighborhoods in June.

The City continues to invest in training for our emergency responders. Fire personnel had over 2400 hours training in such areas as closed head injuries, building search and rescue, hazardous materials assessment, high rise fire operations, soft tissue injuries, fire inspections, Self-Contained Breathing Apparatus donning methods, blood borne pathogens, working in temperature extremes and stroke care. Police personnel participated in over 3000 hours to include firearms, missing and exploited children, advanced human trafficking, animal investigations, active shooter response, DWI/DUI detection and enforcement, Texas specific-shoot don't shoot, advanced child abuse investigation, incident response and cultural diversity.

In addition, Chief Davis, Sergeants Waggoner, Spears and Zuniga successfully completed FBI-LEEDA's Supervisor Leadership Institute, Command Leadership Institute and Executive Leadership Institute training and received the coveted FBI-LEEDA Trilogy Award.

To further protect our perimeters, there was a bill spearheaded by Chief Davis. It was sparked by citizen outcry surrounding traffic violations along our perimeter, hazardous driving conditions and public safety. It involves geographical jurisdiction. SB631 passed and became law effective September 1, 2015. This bill will allow our patrol officers to protect the perimeters of our city and improve public safety.

The City has been aggressively clearing up outstanding warrants. Over

the past year more than 2500 outstanding warrants, dating back a decade, were cleared from our system.

Infrastructure

One of our pressing issues is our aging infrastructure, most notably our streets. Cartegraph, an asset management software program that allows the users to input and track data, was implemented this year. Cartegraph specializes in data collection that maps city streets, alleys and other assets using high tech geographical scanning. This data will be used to track minor and major street repairs and to project future maintenance of the streets. This allows staff to plan projects, not by politics, but by sound principles and good judgement based on data.

Our street maintenance plan continues. Mill and overlay and full depth reclamation has been done on streets throughout the city. The design and bid phase with SAWS has been finalized for streets needing infrastructure repairs. By joint bidding it will allow the same contractor to move the utilities and reduce the chance of delay for the sewer adjustments, repair the streets and minimize disruption to existing customers and residents.

Routine repairs continue on our streets such as cold patch repairs, cracksealing, alligator patching, pothole repairs and depressions aimed at extending the life of the streets.

This year we have taken great strides in addressing this with a Comprehensive Master Drainage Plan. Phase One of the Master Drainage Plan is complete and Phase Two will be presented the first part of the year. With this plan, the city has created a road map to what needs must be addressed. We can now enlist the help of our partners to address this long overdue issue with a sound concrete plan.

We all know that flooding is a major issue in our city. The flooding we experience is a much bigger issue than our city alone. We are part of a greater regional watershed. These watersheds must be managed effectively. It is critical that we work with regional partners such as San Antonio River Authority, the City of San Antonio, Bexar County and Bexar County Regional Watershed Management.

One avenue to help with flooding issues is a stormwater development fee. This fee is deemed a nondiscriminatory, reasonable and equitable methodology to provide and fund regional detention, watershed protection and administration of the drainage utility. That fee, along with the floodplain development permit and fee both assist the city with drainage issues. There was tremendous interest in development in Castle Hills this past year. Working with developers presents many

[Continued on Page 4>>](#)

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Continued from Page 3>>

interesting opportunities, and some hurdles. In addition, the city is now looking at different options available for permeable surfaces. Detention ponds tastefully done or creating bio-swales to reduce stormwater runoff are sensible solutions as we explore low impact development.

Contemporary Issues

The city website is a very important line of communication between the city and the residents of Castle Hills. In order to foster enhanced communication with our residents, we have re-engineered the city website with a modern design that is very user friendly. The City staff now have the ability to update the website internally, as well as maintain control of the content. Some of the great new website communication features include Notify Me, which is a portal that sends information out to citizens in a timely manner; an Alert System that is a text-based banner across the top of the page to alert users to an emergency within the city; and an E-Pay system that allows users to make municipal court violation payments online.

A Zoning Review Committee has been appointed by council to review the current zoning code. Their recommendations will be made to the zoning commission. This process will help determine appropriate locations for residential and nonresidential development while considering existing neighborhoods. It will also provide direction for a variety of land uses.

A common desire among residents of all ages is to be more "green." To realize cost savings, the city has retrofitted all lighting in city facilities with LED. High efficiency lighting upgrades can save energy while improving the light quality and work output. Up to 40% of the current energy bill goes for lighting and an LED conversion can save 75-80% of that lighting energy cost. Use of alternative energy sources is being explored.

The City entered into license agreements with Clear Channel Outdoor, Inc. for two double-sided 14' x 48' digital billboard structures to be located within our city limits. One is located at the east corner of 2103 NW Loop 410 on private property and the other at Roletto Drive and Loop 410. The benefits to the city, in addition to fiscal impact, include commercial marketing abilities on all faces; the City is allocated 40 hours per year of display time on each electronic display for the purposes of City related public service announcements, promotions of special events; and emergency messaging capabilities for national, state and local alerts.

Castle Hills Farm to Market was opened at 2211 NW Military, giving the residents of Castle Hills access to fresh fruits and vegetables along with all kinds of goodies made by craftsman. The Market was a roaring success from the grand opening to today! Because of this, a new ordinance for Parades and Other Gatherings was passed by council that better fits with the events now held in our city.

Compliance/Permits

Code compliance continues to work diligently to address code violations in a timely manner. We are applying codes uniformly across the city. The code compliance investigator reduced our six year backlog of compliance issues. The necessary paperwork was completed through municipal court for the ability to issue citations as one avenue for non-compliance issues. Enforcing the codes improves quality of life in our community and protects property values.

Issuance of permits has exploded this past year. All types of work is being done to rejuvenate the neighborhoods. Fencing, foundation repairs, plumbing, re-roofs, sewer line repairs, accessory structures, upgrades to electrical and new swimming pools to name a few. Also, big remodel projects for homes to be flipped include mechanical, electrical and plumbing upgrades. Several large projects include Pollo Tropical, Bank of San Antonio, several spas and Anytime Fitness.

Partnerships

The city has civic organizations that work tirelessly to bring fun and diverse events to our city. Fiesta Castle Hills had another successful event and brought the city together for our own special "fiesta." Movie nights on the Commons hosted by the Castle Hills Community Organization were enjoyed by many. The city sponsored Back to School Picnic, Oak Wilt seminar, National Night Out, Night with the Mayor and Lighting of the Lights. The Castle Hills Woman's Club hosted eight ribbon cuttings or grand openings that were held in our city during the past year.

The City of Castle Hills negotiated Mutual Aid Agreements with both Alamo Area Emergency Services and Alamo Area Council of Governments. Mayor Howell worked with a consortium of Mayors from other municipalities and Bexar County for an Interlocal Agreement to facilitate the procurement of goods and services. By partnering with the county, we will realize cost savings by using the purchasing power of Bexar County.

VIA moved a route from Lockhill-Selma Road to NW Military Highway effective January 5. Route 534 better serves the busy Castle Hills business corridor and encourages economic development.

The City changed Insurance Agent of Record and negotiated a decrease in health care premiums and an insurance trust that realized additional savings. Our 2014 yearly audit report reflected a positive fund balance and the city was able to add over \$235,000.00 towards streets and drainage projects.

Conclusion

The lifeblood of any organization is the employees. As your employees, we strive to continue to improve our customer service skills. We continue to invest in public safety by equipping all of our first responders with absolutely "best of the best" in their tool boxes to ensure Castle Hills is one of the safest cities. Events are planned that offer new and exciting opportunities to create lifelong memories for years to come. We shall continue working with the business community to strengthen our partnerships for the common good of all. We will continue to remain accountable and transparent and encourage citizen participation.

As I write this, our year is not complete. So much has been done, so much left to do! Castle Hills has an exciting year ahead as we move from ideas to reality on so many initiatives. There were many highlights in 2015, but our work continues. I look forward with great anticipation to 2016 and moving the city forward in a positive way. This is an overview and the complete year in review will be available on our website by the end of January.

Our family, here at city hall, wish you and your family a very Healthy and Prosperous New Year! We are here to serve you! ONE CITY...ONE TEAM!!!



Council Comments



Lesley Wenger,

Farewell to Friends and Notable Neighbors

In my salute to those who had left us in 2014, we bid farewell to ten residents and shared a brief record of their accomplishments—some of which were previously unknown. 2015 has been a particularly difficult year for long-term residents because the number has tripled and several of you have pointed out that you cannot remember a year when we have lost so many friends and neighbors. As a result the Castle Hills Reporter does not have room to include everyone. This, therefore, is an abridged record.

William Schluter (January 9) moved, with his wife Helen, to Castle Hills in 1969 and immediately took an interest in the city's issues. Although they were avid travelers, Bill attended every Council meeting when he was in town and served as Chairman of the Board of Adjustment from 1999-2011. His neighbors remember him dashing around every election, getting the word out and making sure everyone went to vote. Born and raised in New York, he graduated from college in Pennsylvania, served in the U.S. Army, and returned to New York to work in banking. Bill & Helen met while skiing in Vermont and married in Switzerland. After residing in New York they moved to Mexico for five years, returning to work in insurance where he was recruited by USAA as Director of Management Engineering in San Antonio and where he worked until he retired. Bill's idea of retirement was to manage, with Helen, several gift shops, including one in the Airport Hilton. He was also an avid golfer and after collecting several works of art during world trips, decided to start painting himself.

Gloria Webb (January 26) native San Antonian, received her BS in Math from Trinity University and became a programmer with City Public Service. After marrying John T, the love of her life, in 1972, they had five children to whom she devoted herself. The family moved to Castle Hills in 1977 and Gloria became an active member of Blessed Sacrament where she served in the quilting & sewing groups and on the bereavement committee. With four sons and one daughter she was also active in the Cub Scouts & the Boy Scouts, in addition to the Altar Society and the San Antonio Quilt Guild. Due to some developments that Gloria felt had a negative impact on her home and on her neighbors, Gloria became involved in zoning issues in the city. She was a devoted friend to all who knew her.

Kiki Santikos Pringle (February 22) was born in San Antonio but at the age of one her parents moved back to Greece. She survived the Nazi occupation of their home in Athens during World War II and the family returned to San Antonio in the late 1940s. Her father and brother John started the Santikos theater chain and Kiki remained close to John who passed away on January 7th. Active in Castle Hills as a 50 year resident, she and her first husband, Chris Bonduris raised their three sons here. A member of St. Sophia Greek Orthodox Church and the Ladies Philoptochos Society, Kiki was also a member of the Opera Guild, the San Antonio Symphony League, the Castle Hills Woman's Club and served as a docent at the McNay Art Museum.

John Hoyo, Jr. (May 8) was the patriarch of an extended Castle Hills family spanning 3 generations. He served in the U.S. Navy during the Korean War, was a Mason and member of the Anchor and Davy Crockett Lodges. John & Carol (who preceded him in death) traveled extensively with their friends. He was known for his generosity, always offering to help anyone in need.

Don Harris (June 1) graduated from Jefferson HS and enlisted in the U.S. Navy. After WWII he received his degree in Business Administration from UT Austin. Don & Trudy moved to Castle Hills in 1963 and raised their three sons and a daughter here. His career in construction led him to become CEO for American Builders & Contractors Association in San Antonio and later as a safety instructor for various construction companies and school districts. Don was passionate about public education and served as a board member and as president of the NEISD, as well as president of the Confederation of Bexar County School Districts. Not surprisingly he was also involved in Castle Hills' activities and was known for his regular attendance at Council Meetings and for speaking up on issues.

Connie Mae Durnye Slabaugh (June 5) was born in Wadsworth, Ohio and

at the age of 13 became the Cooking Champion at the Ohio State Fair. Known by friends for her vivacious personality, Connie was a soccer player, scuba diver, hunter, fisher and world traveler. She had an eclectic career as an aerobics instructor, personal trainer and forklift operator before working in every position at Wolfe Nurseries for 18 years, rising to CFO. She left Wolfe for Luby's corporate offices and when Luby's moved to Houston she and her husband C.B. became co-owners of QuickBooksTexas.com.

Victor Riba (June 17) born in Blanco, TX, he and the effervescent Sybil (deceased) were fixtures in Castle Hills social and political life for many long years. Victor was a master carpenter, contributing to the construction of many churches and other buildings in San Antonio. In fact he retired from the HEB construction department, but kept busy as a charter member of Holy Spirit Catholic Church, member of the Castle Hills Garden Club, Knights of Columbus and the Elks Club. Victor loved hunting, fishing, gardening and playing bridge & poker—most of all he endeavored to keep Sybil happy and they will both be remembered as devoted friends.

Dr. Bernard Palmer (June 23) born in a log cabin in Mississippi into a missionary family that moved to Arizona, Oklahoma City and Marshall, Texas he went on to graduate from the University of Texas and Galveston Medical School. Bernard met his wife, Mildred in Irving and they raised three children. After medical school Bernard accepted a commission in the U.S. Army which took them around the country till they finally settled in Castle Hills. At a time when there were few specialists in San Antonio, Dr. Palmer practiced ENT medicine and was never satisfied until he found the perfect solution for each patient. As a physical fitness buff and marathon runner he was at the forefront of holistic medicine, and an early promoter of weight loss for good health. Aside from people, he was fascinated by machinery—particularly cars. To those of us who had the pleasure of knowing him, Bernard was a great story-teller, who found amusement in practically every aspect of life.

Bob Weddington (July 8), born and raised in Antlers, OK, Bob was a long-time Castle Hills resident famous for getting along with everybody. He served in the U.S. Air Force as a microbiologist in the Epidemiology Department and retired as a Major. Never one to rest, Bob then became Laboratory Director for Southwest Bioclinical Laboratory while remaining active in amateur radio (as Tall Bob with a call sign of K5HXS), flying remote airplanes, gardening and examining the universe through his telescope. A staunch Republican, when Bob took up bicycling he made a daily tour of every street in Castle Hills stopping to discuss politics along the way with his many, many friends.

Robert Blaha (July 20) was born in Norfolk, VA but lived in San Antonio most of his life, graduating from Lee HS and Texas A&M with a degree in Meteorology. After 2 years in Greenwood, MI with the National Weather Service, Robert returned to Castle Hills and continued with the weather service for 35 years. Of the many awards he received for his meticulous and highly reliable forecasting was the NWS Award for Superior Meteorology Performance. Much like the character on "Unforgettable" Robert had almost total recall of dates, times, people, places and events—ultimately winning every argument. Always imbued with good humor, there was never a situation known to him that he did not offer his help.

Continued on Page 6>>





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Gus Wueste (September 8) was a descendant of a pioneer German family that emigrated to Texas in 1859. Gus and Cecelia were married for 64 years and raised their four children in Castle Hills, moving here in 1954 when they were just the 3rd family on their block. A graduate of St. Mary's University, Gus retained a lifelong friendship with his Tau Delta Sigma fraternity brothers. He began his successful career in food service & hospitality in college, later landing him on the Board of Directors of the San Antonio Restaurant Association and membership with the San Antonio Executive Club. He served as Eucharist Minister and president of the Parish Council at Blessed Sacrament Catholic Church, was a member of Oblate Associates, Grand Commander of the Order of the Alhambra Bejar Caravan 56 and lifelong member of the Knights of Columbus. Gus was known to his friends as a really fun guy.

Dr. Berry Sutherland (September 17) was born in Pleasanton, TX and as a boy lived in Central & South Texas where his father was a lay minister, finally landing in San Antonio where he graduated from Brackenridge HS. At the outbreak of the Korean War, Berry joined the Navy and served in the Pacific Theater with Fighter Squadron VF24 aboard the USS Yorktown off Korea, with the Military Air Transport Service Naval Squadron V8 in Hawaii and Guam transporting supplies to Japan for U.S. troops and moving the wounded back to Hawaii and the U.S. After his service he completed a BS degree in geology at UT-Austin and was employed as a geological engineer on drilling rigs throughout South Texas. After marrying Betty, he received a fellowship for graduate school at the University of Houston and completed his Masters & Doctoral Degrees while teaching there. As a member of the initial faculty at UTSA, Berry served as Professor of Education & Environmental Studies for 26 years, as Associate Dean and in other administrative positions for 22 years, as well as co-authoring a series of secondary school Earth Science textbooks that were adopted in 18 states and translated & used in Spanish-speaking countries & in China, with book sales exceeding 2.5 Million. Berry retired in 2000 with Professor Emeritus status.

Richard Pompa (September 30) a San Antonio native graduated from Fox Tech HS and San Antonio College. After serving in the U.S. Army during the Korean War, he and Alma (married 59 years) moved to Castle Hills in 1970 with their two young sons. During his career as a structural steel draftsman he designed the blueprints for many local buildings including the Federal Building and the

San Antonio International Airport. Richard was a loyal & caring friend who was admired for his dignified presence.

Jim Stanley (November 11) was born in Picher, OK and started his own business at age 10 repairing bicycles. After high school he enlisted in the U.S. Navy where he attended naval electrical engineering school in Tennessee and upon graduation was shipped to Corpus Christi. Jim moved to Austin when he was discharged, enrolled at UT working on the side for HEB—he was accepted into their management training program and graduated with a BA in Business Administration. After graduation he worked for HEB in Corpus until he was transferred to San Antonio where he rose through the ranks to become District Manager of over half the stores in town. In 1973 Jim and two partners opened their own supermarket chain—Super S Foods—that eventually grew to over 56 stores spread across central & south Texas. Retiring as Chairman of the Board in 1992, he started a real estate development company for both residential and commercial properties. An avid outdoorsman who loved to hunt and fish, Jim used his adventures to strengthen his friendships and is remembered for his straightforwardness and honesty.

Sara Jane Poe Howell (November 23) born in Albuquerque, NM and moved to San Antonio at an early age. She graduated from Saint Mary's Hall, went on to attend Vassar College and received her Master's Degree in English from Trinity University. Sara Jane loved to write, was always available to help friends with her editing skills and taught English at Edison HS before she and Tommy founded the family environmental business. A lover of antiques and their history—acquired from her own mother—who gave them their stately home, as a wedding present, (designed by Sara Jane and built by Tommy) in Castle Hills in 1964—she continued to add to the collection with the help of her daughter Anna-Laura. Sara Jane was an active member of the San Antonio Conservation Society and the Castle Hills Woman's Club, but perhaps most notably she had a deep love for all creatures great & small and inspired Anna-Laura to join the Board of the Animal Defense League, ultimately becoming its President.

If you would like to have a copy of the complete 2015 list of "Friends & Notable Neighbors" please call me at (210) 377-3636 or e-mail to wengertx@satx.rr.com

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Matthew Daggett,
Place 2

I hope each of you had quality time with family and friends. The holidays offer us an opportunity to slow down and actually cherish the moments while letting go of our fast paced lifestyle.

The streets and drainage projects are continuing, and we soon will have Phase 2 of our master drainage plan for review by council. This is an opportunity to view the full picture of city wide drainage and the steps needed to address deficiencies. VIA will be on the ballot in the spring. Our citizens will have the opportunity to continue the partnership with VIA or withdraw and instead use these resources on infrastructure needs. Also in the spring, we will appoint a master planning committee to review and revise the comprehensive master plan. I think of it as a master redevelopment plan, because our city is built out already. The plan will serve as the guide for redevelopment due to the changing needs of our citizens, businesses and infrastructures. These are challenging and difficult decisions for our city. I invite you to come to the meetings and get involved. The city has changed a lot in the last 65 years. We need to keep the charm that brought us all here, and be smart about our future needs. As always, call me with any concerns or ideas.

Happy New Year!

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



Douglas Gregory,
PLACE 5

As 2016 shapes up, there will be several major positive developments for Castle Hills. The below reflects of these possibilities:

- The City Master Plan will be updated. This should provide a fresh view of how we hope

Castle Hills can improve.

- A completed Drainage Master Plan. This for the first time will enable everyone to know what needs to be done with our infrastructure and the scope and cost needed to get there.
- Zoning Regulations will be updated to reflect current thinking by our residents.
- A determination on the fiscal direction citizens want to go. Afterwards, the path will be so defined we will know our possibilities.
- All these items are being done for two purposes: to preserve the quality of living we presently enjoy and to make Castle Hills the destination point for those who share our view of living.

So there it is . . . a full plate. Get involved, stay engaged and enjoy where you live. We are all in this together.

Happy New Year!

Respectfully,
Councilman Gregory



John Squire,
PLACE 3

As we go into the New Year, I hope that everyone will have a happy and prosperous one. Our small city is going forward in leaps and bounds. I see Castle Hills continuing to gain in its prestige and also exceeding in its up and coming desirability for new businesses and new residents.

In 2015, we made substantial progress on maintaining and repairing many of our streets. In 2016, we will continue to make progress on street repair. Additionally, this process includes a substantial amount of coordination with SAWS staff for the water and sewer line replacements for these streets. As I have commented before, with focused efforts, we will continue to work through the repair of our streets over time, and all will benefit from the results.

With teamwork and trust from all residents, we can continue to make improvements and instill pride for the City. Yes, we each have different opinions and perspectives, but through a cooperative spirit our ideas and efforts are channeled toward the 'What's best for all residents and Our City.' I know there are many people in this city that have great ideas. Let us hear from you. Send the Mayor and City Council your ideas, even the ideas that you think may not be important. You never know what will work. If we don't hear from you, we will never know. Please take the time to call or send us an e-mail. Help us look for solutions. We are your volunteers, the Mayor and City Council, and we are doing this work for the greater good of our city. It may not always seem that way, but it is. I believe that this upcoming year is going to be a wonderful year so let's all pitch in together and work to make it happen.

Please contact me with questions and ideas. 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

From my family to yours – Happy New Year!

Respectfully,
John Squire

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Frank Paul,
PLACE 4

This spring, our citizens will be asked to vote on whether or not to keep VIA service in our city. I brought to council the agenda item for this vote last April. It passed council unanimously.

I believe it is city council's responsibility to provide our citizenry with facts that will help in making a decision. This includes both pros and cons on keeping the service.

Castle Hills is an integral part of San Antonio, which is the 7th largest city in the country. I believe that we should keep VIA. But I also strongly believe that a decision of this magnitude should be voted on by the citizens, not pushed through by council. The state legislature requires a voter referendum for implementation of sales and use taxation. Like you, I am one vote.

I know that the business community in our city strongly believes that VIA is necessary to their viability. In fact, the tax money that is given to VIA is generated from the sales and use taxes collected in our city from these businesses. The city does not write VIA a check. Additionally, our businesses pay approximately 39% of our real estate taxes.

If VIA were to leave, the city would need to provide a VIAtrans like service for those that need the help. The what, who and how much has yet to be determined. But it would be part of the post vote process if the vote is to remove VIA services.

The removal of VIA means that the bus service on West Avenue and the new route on Military Highway would be removed. The buses may still travel our streets but would not open their doors. The service on Jackson Keller Road, Blanco Road and possibly Lock Hill Selma Road would still be available since they are in San Antonio. So there would still be some service around the city. Any actions on those routes would be determined by VIA, not Castle Hills.

If VIA were voted out of the city, one of the options for consideration is the creation of a Municipal Development District to allow the sales tax money to be captured in an entity that will provide funds for needed street and drainage repairs. Today, the approximate amount of funds that would go into the entity is about \$450,000 a year; less the amount it would cost the city to provide the VIAtrans type service.

If VIA is voted out, there will be monies owed to VIA. This is based on statutory law that allows VIA to recapture funds that have been committed to provide their services in Castle Hills. We will owe a proportional amount, which is currently estimated at about \$400,000. This money would continue to be collected in sales tax and the State Comptroller will distribute the funds to VIA until VIA is paid in full. At that time, Castle Hills would begin receiving the funds for the Municipal Development District. This allows the city to meet our statutory obligations to VIA without writing a check from the General Fund. During the time necessary to complete collection of sales tax funds to pay VIA, the city would create and set up the municipal development district.

If you are not a registered voter, please stop by city hall and pick-up a voter registration card. Your vote counts only if you vote.

I hope your holiday season was joyous. I wish you all a great new year!

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

COUNCIL MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

November 10, 2015 – Regular City Council Meetings

- Approved the adoption of the Resolution authorizing the Mayor to execute an Interlocal Agreement between the City of Castle Hills and Bexar County to facilitate the procurement of goods and services.
- Approved the purchasing of a new sanitation truck and trading in the current sanitation truck.
- Approved the license agreements and assignment of lease from Clear Channel Outdoor, Inc.
- Appointed 2 alternates to serve on the Zoning Commission.

December 8, 2015 – Regular City Council Meetings

- Denied the application from SA Hourglass, LLC, which is requesting the rezoning of the property at 2220 NW Military and 6909 West Ave.
- Approved directing the City Attorney to prepare an ordinance calling an election to continue the VIA sales tax in Castle Hills.
- Approved directing the City Attorney to prepare an ordinance calling an election to impose a new sales tax if the voters do not continue the VIA sales tax in Castle Hills.
- Approved an Interlocal agreement with VIA for funding transit infrastructure and authorize the City Manager to execute the agreement including the amendment that the City of Castle Hills would not incur any additional costs as a result of the transit infrastructure improvements.
- Approved the proposal for Audit Services from Armstrong Vaughan and Associates, P.C., to conduct FY 2015 Annual City Audit and authorized the City manager to sign an engagement letter including the amendment requesting a detailed breakdown of audit expenses.

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What will change?

Well... nothing! Your address will be removed from the mailing list and a digital copy will be emailed to you within the next couple of issues.

We are so pleased to be offering this new service!

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



Shop CASTLE HILLS NEW BUSINESSES

Nice in the USA – Jewelry Store

LTC Answering Service – Answering Service

Partners in Primary Care – Medical Office

The Bra Box – Clothing Store

Rainbow Language Academy – Educational

The Max Salon – Salon Services

COMING SOON

Team Soccer – Retail

ANNIVERSARIES

35 Years

David Duggan – Fire Department

Retirement

39 Years

Fire Captain Richard Sill retires on January 31, 2016 after 39 years of dedicated service to the community.



Greetings citizens,

Wow! Another year in the books. It's hard to believe how time flies but when you are doing what you truly love to do then it is no wonder. We had a very busy 2015, the busiest one yet as far as Calls for Service go. We had a little over 23,000 Calls for Service for the year. Calls for Service is a tool to measure productivity by police that include activities like traffic stops, offense reports, accidents, arrests and patrol by's just to name a few.


While many things change with the passing of years, some things never will, nor should they. Such as officers working patrol, interacting with citizens, helping stranded motorists and enforcing the law. We may tweak how we do our business, but the fundamentals of law enforcement should stay the way they were intended. The officers we employ will always hold the Law Enforcement Code of Ethics close and use them as a guiding tool to make it through their shift. We follow this Code and often turn to it to remind us why we got in the business in the first place. Every officer that works for the City of Castle Hills Police Department has signed off on the Law Enforcement Code of Ethics and that original copy is kept in my office. We always strive to hire the very best officers and it is especially important with the current national spotlight on law enforcement. It takes a true believer in the core values mentioned in the Law Enforcement Code of Ethics to want to become a police officer these days.

In closing, I want to thank you for supporting your police department and the officers working 24 hours a day, seven days a week doing their best to keep us all safe. We hope you had a Happy Holiday season and always remember; just give us a call if you need anything.

Wayne Davis
Chief, Castle Hills PD



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DO NOT LEAVE HAZARDOUS MATERIALS UNATTENDED!

Residents, this is a very serious issue.

The City has a free drop off program for Hazardous Materials, but the rules for Hazardous Material drop off must be followed in order to ensure safety for all of our residents, especially our children. We are disturbed by how often residents leave unattended hazardous materials in front of the Public Works building.

It is not uncommon for employees to arrive at the Public Works yard to find boxes of hazardous materials that have been dumped off and left out overnight or a weekend. This is extremely dangerous. There is a sign on the fence in the Public Works yard clearly stating that hazardous materials cannot be dropped off after business hours. Our new website also clearly states this same information.

Solvents like paint thinner, turpentine, and lacquer are not only flammable but highly toxic. Antifreeze is also flammable and poisonous, and Motor Oil contains lead and other contaminants. Acids will create a chemical reaction and combust. It is very important that every resident maintains responsibility for Hazardous Materials within our city.



The city yard is right across the street from a school. If children ingest the toxins, they can easily be poisoned. The residents of Castle Hills simply cannot allow that to happen. (In the past, someone opened several cans of paint that were left unattended and poured them all over the Public Works and Fire Department yards. This created an enormous mess and was very expensive to clean up.)



If you have Hazardous Materials, follow these 3 rules:

1. DO NOT put Hazardous Materials in the garbage
2. DO NOT leave Hazardous Materials unattended at the Public Works building (or anywhere)
3. DO bring the items to the Public Works building DURING BUSINESS HOURS

Business hours are Monday through Thursday, 8a.m.-12p.m and 1p.m.-4p.m.; and Friday 8a.m.-12p.m. No drop off after noon on Fridays. If you cannot drop off during business hours, call Public Works and arrange for the items to be picked up. There is a nominal charge of \$30 for this pick up service.

You can learn more about Hazardous Materials on the new City website at:

<http://www.cityofcastlehills.com/2231/Hazardous-Materials>

Please be responsible and keep our residents and employees safe. Thank you.

Submitted by the Public Works Department



Shweiki

2015 CODE COMPLIANCE IN QUICK REVIEW

For 2015, there were a variety of code violations that were cited by the city, and a few of those violations were more frequently cited than others. Failure to keep bushes and shrubs trimmed, clearing alleys and roadways, and keeping vegetation at a 12 foot minimum height clearance were near the top of the violation list last year. Why is this violation of concern to the city? Fire apparatus and sanitation trucks are tall and need the 12 foot minimum height clearance to prevent damaging the equipment. In the past, Public Works employees have sustained injuries when struck by vegetation growing into the path of the sanitation trucks. Another common violation involved businesses who install permanent and temporary signs without a permit. Construction projects without permits and open businesses without Certificates of Occupancy unfortunately resulted in work stoppages. Businesses had to be temporarily closed until the proper permits and inspections were obtained.

In April 2015, Code Compliance exercised the legal option of issuing citations after a violator has been warned and has failed to comply. If a violation is an on-going situation or if a violator is a "repeat offender", a citation is immediately generated without a Notice of Violation Letter being sent. 52 citations were issued in 9 months in 2015.

If you have any questions about what is allowed by code,

you may access the City Code at https://www.municode.com/library/TX/castle_hills/codes/code_of_ordinances. Please remember that fair market property values are dependent on a number of factors; including the quality of the neighborhood and surrounding areas. We should all strive to be responsible residents and, when in doubt, contact this office with possible code violations that may be happening in Castle Hills. Have a safe 2016.

Mayor Hobert Philip "Hub" Lundblade

October 12, 1929 – November 24, 2015

Castle Hills mourns the loss of Dr. Hobert "Hub" Lundblade, who served on the Castle Hills City Council from 1963 to 1969, and was Mayor from 1969 until 1991. Mayor Lundblade was a forward thinking leader who was highly respected by the citizens of Castle Hills.



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Escape Planning

Plan Ahead! If a fire breaks out in your home, you may have only a few minutes to get out safely once the smoke alarm sounds. Everyone needs to know what to do and where to go if there is a fire.

SAFETY TIPS

- » **MAKE** a home escape plan. Draw a map of your home showing all doors and windows. Discuss the plan with everyone in your home.
- » **KNOW** at least two ways out of every room, if possible. Make sure all doors and windows leading outside open easily.
- » **HAVE** an outside meeting place (like a tree, light pole or mailbox) a safe distance from the home where everyone should meet.
- » **PRACTICE** your home fire drill at night and during the day with everyone in your home, twice a year.
- » **PRACTICE** using different ways out.
- » **TEACH** children how to escape on their own in case you can't help them.
- » **CLOSE** doors behind you as you leave.

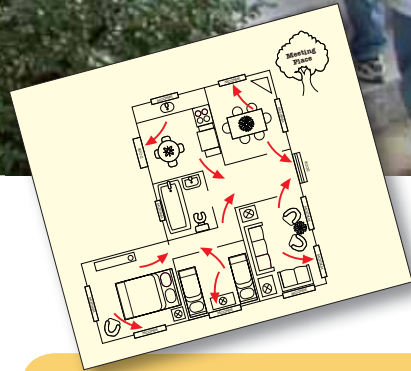
IF THE ALARM SOUNDS...

- » If the smoke alarm sounds, **GET OUT AND STAY OUT**. Never go back inside for people or pets.
- » If you have to escape through smoke, **GET LOW AND GO** under the smoke to your way out.
- » **CALL** the fire department from outside your home.



Your Source for **SAFETY** Information

NFPA Public Education Division • 1 Batterymarch Park, Quincy, MA 02169



FACTS

- ! According to an NFPA survey, only **one of every three** American households have actually developed and practiced a home fire escape plan.
- ! While **71%** of Americans have an escape plan in case of a fire, only **47%** of those have practiced it.
- ! **One-third** of American households who made an estimate thought they would have at least 6 minutes before a fire in their home would become life-threatening. The time available is often less. And only **8%** said their first thought on hearing a smoke alarm would be to get out!

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YOUR COMMUNITY



Chef Andrew Pararella and family cut the Grand Opening ribbon on November 2nd welcoming customers for Rossini's Italian Bistro located at 2195 NW Military.



Grand Opening on November 13th celebrating the newest Anytime Fitness located at 8055 West Avenue, Suite 110 operated by Janneth Rodriguez. Spurs power forward Boris Diaw welcomed the crowd to the ribbon cutting.



Owners Jesus and Erika Rincon celebrate the Grand Opening of Chagos Taqueria located at 5515 Blanco Road on October 26th with the Mayor and the Castle Hills Woman's Club.



Spurs Boris Diaw poses for pictures with Officer Fawcett and Officer Crawford of the Castle Hills Police Department at the Anytime Fitness Grand Opening.



The Grinch tries to dampen the holiday spirits by turning off the lights on the tree at the "Lighting of the Lights" on December 1st.



Mayor Howell welcomes H-E-Buddy and Jimmy's Egg to the "Lighting of the Lights" celebration in the Commons on December 1st.



Blue and Red Santa spread holiday cheer with young and old at the "Lighting of the Lights".



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Pastor, Garrett Vickrey

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