

March 2014

The Castle Hills **Reporter**

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Message From the Mayor

"Positive Communication is the Bedrock of City Government"

A friend's t-shirt is emblazoned with a cartoon of a man with his hands covering his ears. Underneath the cartoon are the words, "I'm not listening."

Americans are no longer listening to those whose ideas and opinions differ from their own. If we do listen, we listen only to someone or some news source, which reinforces our respective points of view. Whether liberal or conservative, religious or irreligious, there is a television station or a radio talk show that agrees with you.

The men who signed the Declaration of Independence did not all agree on its language. They wrangled over words, paragraphs, ideas and concepts and then they boldly signed their names. Not because they agreed with every word, but because they knew the cause was greater than the individual.

After signing the declaration, Benjamin Franklin warned his fellow rebels that they must hang together or they would, most assuredly, hang separately.

Abraham Lincoln also knew the importance of standing together. He turned to the gospels of Matthew, Mark and Luke to find the words to remind the young nation that "a house divided against itself cannot stand." Lyndon Johnson quoted Isaiah to warring senators, urging them "to come, now, and reason together."

Words of wisdom from 18th, 19th and 20th century leaders fall on deaf ears in 21st century America. We Americans hang apart from those of unlike minds or lifestyles, let hate divide our houses and choose rancor over reason.

As your mayor, my goal is that we remove our hands from our ears and listen to one another with open hearts and minds. Let us put state before self, civility before condescension and generosity before greed. Let us disagree without being disagreeable. Let us acknowledge that compromises are not capitulations, nor are they tantamount to treason.

When disagreements arise, let us remember the wisdom of Buddha, who wrote "in a controversy the instant we feel anger we have already ceased striving for the truth, and have begun striving for ourselves."

Sometimes it seems that our need to be right can prevent us from listening to another point of view and prevents us from entertaining the idea that the other side might be right. During my time in City Hall, I have seen the damage that can be done to our city by individuals who are determined only to be right.

I wish that those you have elected to serve can spend more time addressing issues that will move our city forward.

It also is my wish that more of you would come and participate in City Council meetings. Your elected officials will have our ears and minds open. We will listen thoughtfully and treat you with respect, and I hope you will do the same.

Reasoning together we can arrive at solutions that will benefit our city now and in the future.

Your Mayor,

Bruce Smiley- Kaliff - mayor@cityofcastlehills.com - 210-342-5954



Bruce Smiley-Kaliff

CITY COUNCIL

Bruce Smiley-Kaliff
Mayor

Michael Catalani
Place 1

Stacia Spridgen
Place 2

John Squire
Place 3

Tim Howell
Place 4

Tom Davis
Place 5, Mayor Pro Tem

CITY STAFF
(210) 342-2341

Rita Hoyl
City Manager, ext. 214

Janie Willman
City Secretary, ext. 216

Suzanne Riley
Finance/Human Resources, ext. 224

Jerry Riedel
Fire Department Chief, ext. 217

Wayne Davis
Police Department Chief, ext. 210

Rick Harada
Public Works & Animal Control
Department Director, ext. 206

ALL EMERGENCIES, EMT, FIRE &
POLICE CALL 911

Non-emergency (210) 342-2341

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

City Council
2nd Tuesday, 6:30pm

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

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

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

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



City Manager - Rita Hoyl

Updates of the May Flood Event repairs and the progress of our Street Preventative Maintenance plan.

Flood Repairs

The City Engineer, Public Works Director and I identified 24 sites that were most affected by the May 25th Flood event.

Of the 24 sites:

- 9 drainage projects were subcontracted out to private contractors;
- 14 street projects were undertaken by the City's Public Works Department employees;
- 1 site will require further discussion with the city's engineer and City Council at an estimated cost upwards of \$50,000

Public Works also filled an enormous number of potholes and repaired areas in the streets that had to be reworked because of asphalt damage.

In June, City Council approved and allocated \$82,000 to fix the drainage concerns and \$200,000 to fix the street and alley problems. The drainage was completed at a cost \$61,130 and Public Works Department Director Rick Harada and his crew completed the street projects for \$15,597, demonstrating a total savings of \$205,273! I am always appreciative of the work that Mr. Harada and his

employees do for the City of Castle Hills and most appreciative of his diligence to accomplish the work with keeping costs at a minimum.

Street Maintenance Plan

Without a formal street maintenance plan in place, last summer, Councilman John Squire, Public Works Director Rick Harada, and I teamed up and began the process of developing a Street Maintenance Plan through a series of regular meetings. Our focus was strictly on street maintenance; leaving aside the consideration of any capital improvement projects.

In order to develop a working plan of action, we asked the following questions:

1. How do we start to put a plan together?
2. What are other cities doing?
3. What resources are needed?
– Software / Equipment / Contractors
4. How do we prioritize the work?

Mr. Harada began by contacting and meeting with other municipalities to find out how they manage their street maintenance program. He spoke to public works directors at four cities. Two cities purchased software that provide pavement management systems and had a street maintenance plan in place. The remaining two cities had no software and like Castle Hills, the cities perform small repairs like pot holes and slurry seal.

In October I visited with representatives at the Texas Municipal League Conference that specialized in asphalt rejuvenation, bringing back information. Rick contacted the companies, which have come

Continued on Page 5>>



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COUNCIL MEETING HIGHLIGHTS



January 14, 2014 - City Council Meeting

- Mayor Smiley-Kaliff introduced Sharon Pillet as the Citizen of the Year for 2013
- Received an update from the City Attorney on the progress of developing an RFP for Digital Billboard Signs.
- Received an update that the re-zoning request for the West Avenue/NW Loop 410 parcel from 'H' to 'G' has been withdrawn by the applicant.
- Approved the November & December 2013 Treasurers Reports.
- Approved the Certified Tax Roll for the Year 2013
- Ratified the appointments of Van Garcia and Alex Burgos as members of the Streets and Drainage Committee.
- Approved the Tree Removal and Mitigation Plan filed by Wayside Chapel as recommended by the Architectural Review Committee.
- Postponed the cancellation of Ordinance No. 1100 issued to Anne Marie Edgerton for use of the accessory structure located at 1900 NW Military Highway for balloon sales and shaved ice businesses until the February City Council Meeting.
- Approved an amendment to Ordinance No. 1050 increasing the CPS Energy Franchise Fee and extending the term of the Franchise Fee Agreement

February 11, 2014 - City Council Meeting

- Introduced two new City employees, Janet Thelen, Administrative Assistant, and Maribel Mendoza, Police Administrative Assistant
- Issued a Proclamation recognizing the Boy Scouts of America for Community Service to the Order of the Arrow participants
- Received an updated report by the City Manager on the status of the May 25, 2013 Flood Event Repairs
- Received an updated report on the Street Maintenance Plan being formulated by Councilman John Squire, Public Works Director Rick Harada, and City Manager Rita Hoyl
- Received an updated report on the progress of technology upgrades
- Approved the January 2014 Treasurers Report
- Adopted an Ordinance Calling the May 10, 2014 General Election for the Election of Alderman Places 1, 4, & 5
- Adopted an Ordinance Calling the Reauthorization Election for the Street Maintenance Sales & Use Tax
- Authorized an RFQ for City Attorney services
- Authorized an RFQ for City Engineer services
- Adopted an Ordinance Establishing a Schedule of Fees for various City Permits and Services to be effective with a publication after March 1, 2014
- Authorized Signing a Memorandum of Understanding to confirm an increase of the CPS Energy Franchise by one-half percent

- Authorized allocating up to \$50,000 from the City's CIED Fund for a 25 percent matching grant from Bexar Metro 9-1-1 Network District to obtain \$147,032.63 in funding to upgrade the Police Dispatch Communications Center and radio operations
- A request regarding an appeal from Angie Borrás requesting to display other business names on a proposed on-premise digital sign at 2012 NW Military Highway was withdrawn by the applicant
- Cancelled Ordinance No. 1100, granting an SUP for the conduct of businesses located at 1900 NW Military Highway
- Postponed a Public Hearing and considering the recommendation of the Zoning Commission for Approval of an SUP for Santos Café located at 1005 Jackson Keller Road to allow the applicant to resolve issues related to the permit request

EMPLOYEE HIGHLIGHTS

Anniversaries

15-Years

Donald Spears, Police Department

1-Year

Yolanda Martinez, Municipal Court

New Employees

Janet Thelen, Administration

In Memoriam – Robert Sanchez

City of Castle Hills Public Works, Street Department Employee
Dates of service 4/16/2005 - 12/21/13

Robert Sanchez was a kind hearted soul who provided excellent customer service to the residents of Castle Hills. He was a very hard worker who loved taking care of the animals in the shelter. He did not want a memorial service upon his death because he wanted people to remember him as he was in life.

Robert Sanchez deceased December 21, 2013

Continued from Page 3>>

in to explain their product and process for asphalt rejuvenation. He also contacted companies that have demonstrated their software. Additionally, Rick has been working with Bexar County, to get an understanding of their pavement management programs and technology they use.

In March, Mr. Harada and I will bring a recommendation to Council on how we would like to proceed. The options include purchasing software to begin the data collection and/or funding to begin a pavement restoration program or a combination of technologies to start implementing a successful street maintenance program. Should Council accept our recommendation, we will advertise for RFP's for a pavement management project.

Last year, the Castle Hills Police Department aggressively pursued several grants. In January we were notified that we were awarded a one-time facility and operational projects matching fund grant. In this grant Bexar Metro 911 provides for 75% of the funds and the City provides matching funds at 25%. The grant is for up to \$196,043.51 with Bexar Metro 911 providing for \$147,032.63 and the City being responsible for \$49,010.88. City Council approved the 25% matching contribution at the February City Council meeting. Items that make up the grant include upgrades to the communications center and radio operations, automated vehicle locator, security needs within the communications center, server/computer racks, and technology support.

I applaud Chief Davis and Captain Siemens who were diligent in their efforts to seek this funding opportunity that will improve the safety and efficiency of the employees and provide for the safety of our community.

Holiday Spirit & Holiday Generosity

Thank you to all the citizens, businesses, and city employees who opened their hearts and gave generously to support the San Antonio Food Bank and the Blue Santa programs during the holiday season. With your kindness, families across Castle Hills and south Texas enjoyed a brighter holiday season. Thank you for your continued support of these worthwhile programs!

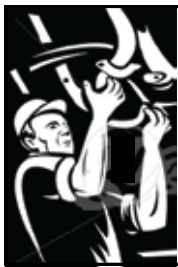
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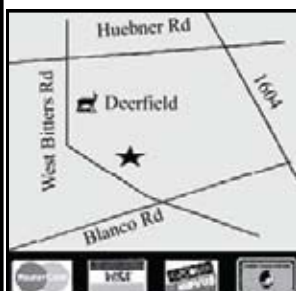
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Council Comments



Michael Catalani
Place 1

Over the past two years I have centered my articles on the positive aspects of our city. My last three articles have given you a snap shot of our various city services and departments. I felt the more you knew about your city the more informed you would be and better understand where your money goes and for what. I hope these articles have been helpful to you.

One of the key issues still facing Castle Hills is positive economic development. We have made great strides in attracting new businesses and keeping them in Castle Hills. The Castle Hills Woman's Club offers a grand opening ribbon cutting ceremony for all new businesses as well as assisting in the opening ceremony. Christine coordinates these ceremonies which are well attended by members of the club. Over the past two years, some thirty ribbon cuttings have taken place. I have been fortunate to participate in all these openings. What a positive and progressive statement this makes on the part of the Woman's Club and the city to welcome new businesses.

In addition to this wonderful undertaking, the Castle Hills/Shavano Park Business Alliance has made a positive statement to our businesses that we are here to support them in their business ventures. I am proud to have played a part in creating this non-profit organization for our city. The alliance has close to 50 businesses in the organization. Beldon Roofing, Poppy's, Dough, Picnikins, Jimmy's Egg, Webster University, Houses in San Antonio, NeuroRestorative, Burger King and IBC Bank are just some of the businesses that have joined the alliance. The alliance members meet once a month at a local establishment to hear a presentation by a guest speaker. Some of the topics presented have been on Data Security, Affordable Care Act, Flood Control, Data Information and motivational topics. This organization helps increase awareness of the positive business aspects of Castle Hills and helps build strong, progressive, and sustained economic growth vital to our city. Remember, economic growth equals increased revenue which eventually helps to finance services and projects such as street repairs and drainage improvements.

Lastly, please remember to support our Fiesta Castle Hills which will take place on April 12th, 2014. Over the years, Fiesta Castle Hills has grown. More families are enjoying the festivities.

As always, if I can be of any assistance to you, please contact me. I can be reached at 342-2087 or at michael.catalani@yahoo.com

served for many years, to share experiences and policies and practices that have worked in their respective cities. One of the speakers, Jess Fields, a Senior Policy Analyst in the Center for Local Governance at the Texas Public Policy Foundation, spoke about meeting the challenge of good governance in the 21st century, primarily the challenge of citizen participation. He stated there are four phases to reach this nirvana of effective local government with citizen engagement: transparency (citizens' access to city government information i.e., meeting agendas, city budget, etc), participation and dialogue with citizens, collaboration, and finally engagement or synchronization of the government and the citizens. I believe those involved in local government have often treated citizen engagement as an option to enhance policymaking and community-building in local government. I would argue that now engagement no longer is an option; it is a necessity! If we are to anticipate successfully and plan for coherence in community building we must find a way to channel toward the collective good the diversity of the players, their energy, and their collaborative minds. Citizen engagement

- Increases the likelihood that projects or solutions will be widely accepted. Citizens who participate in these processes show significant commitment to help make the projects happen.
- Creates more effective solutions. Drawing on local knowledge and past experiences from a diverse group creates solutions that are practical and effective.
- Improves citizens' knowledge and skills in problem solving. Participants learn about the issues in-depth. Greater knowledge allows them to see multiple sides - of the problem. Citizens can practice communication and decision-making skills.
- Empowers and integrates people from different backgrounds. Groups that feel ignored can gain greater control over their lives and their community. When people from different areas of the community work together, they often find that they have much in common.
- Creates local networks of community members. The more people who know what is going on and who are willing to work toward a goal, the more likely a community is to be successful in reaching its goals.
- Creates several opportunities for discussing concerns. Regular, on-going discussions allow people to express concerns before problems become too big or out of control.
- Increases trust in community organizations and local governance. Working together improves communication and understanding. Knowing what local government and community leaders can and cannot do may reduce future conflict.

Being involved shows citizens they can make positive changes in their communities – and also that the process of change can be frustrating and slow, and limited by laws and administrative rules.

I applaud those residents who participate in the various Castle Hills' committees (Strategic Planning, Streets and Drainage, Architectural Review, Board of Adjustment and Zoning Committees)! Thank you for your time, efforts, and dedication to our city and its' future!



John Squire,
PLACE 3

In February, I along with Councilman Howell and Spridgen had the opportunity to attend the Texas Municipal League conference that was held in San Antonio. This informative and educational weekend conference covered a variety of subjects for city councilmembers which in turn can be brought back and shared with our City. Additionally, the conference provided opportunities to directly network with councilmembers from other cities across Texas



Stacia Spridgen,
Place 2

On February 7 – 9th, I attended the Texas Municipal League's 2014 Elected Leaders Conference in San Antonio. The League's mission is to serve the needs and advocate the interests of cities and city officials in the state of Texas. This yearly conference provides valuable training and networking opportunities for city leaders, those newly elected or those who have

<<Council Comments Continued From Page 6

to seek input and share ideas on similar challenges we all face.

During the February city council meeting our City Manager provided an update on the status of the street maintenance plan that we have been working on since this summer. In summary, our city staff has worked to identify the fundamentals needed for a long term Castle Hills specific street maintenance plan. This started by contacting many of our peer cities, Bexar County, and technical professionals in seeking and receiving input on what plans and resources they utilize for street maintenance. We additionally have looked at how we can best manage street maintenance proactively as opposed to reactively, what kinds of technology will better allow us to prioritize the work, and what types of equipment would be most appropriate for the type of maintenance that we need to perform. We are continuing this process and are making progress. While it takes a lot of work to put a viable long term plan together, I believe the results for our City will be well worth the effort.

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 – jsquirecastlehills@yahoo.com or
- phone – 210-390-4611

Respectfully,
John Squire



Tim Howell,
PLACE 4

As we enter the 2014 election season, I for one am glad we live in a society where our city officials are elected; and as registered voters, you have the ability to shape your future. Thank you all for the opportunity to serve you. I am looking forward to the future in Castle Hills with enthusiasm and forward thinking thoughts.

With the different committees working together in open session, and the ideas being brought forward from those committees, as well as our residents, we will have many positive alternatives to choose from to finally, and I say finally, take the infrastructure to the next level. Staying positive, working together, focused, and determined, we will accomplish this quest. The idea that there is one fix, is just not the way anymore. We have several revenue avenues being explored. As I have said in the past, there are no sacred cows. All will be considered as possible revenue sources, and ways to keep our residents out of additional tax burden. I am insistent on not raising taxes when there are other ways to pay for projects.

Our departments are getting the picture too with the Police department's recent award of a \$196,000 grant to be used for much needed equipment. Our contribution, being a fraction of what it took to match this award is "thinking out of the box" to maximize our revenue sources.

Please join me in this forward, positive approach to move our city forward. Thank you all for the opportunity to serve you. I am available at any of the sources below.

Timothy A Howell
Cell-210-535-9094
timothyallanhowell@yahoo.com
timothyallanhowell@gmail.com
timothyallanhowell@facebook.com
timothyallanhowellmistercastlehills@gmx.com



Tom Davis,
PLACE 5, Mayor Pro Tem

In last month's article I ended with the statement, "It makes you wonder what kind of city is Castle Hills." A valid question for the here and now, but maybe we should be asking, "What kind of city do we want to be? What do we want to be now and in the future?" Made your decision yet? Those are questions that are not as easy to answer as one might think. Maybe this will help.

In this month's Messenger from my church, the Pastor began by saying he was going to talk about something most people didn't like to talk about or at best were uncomfortable hearing. You guessed it. He was talking about money, or the lack thereof. It seems small churches and small towns have something in common: rising costs, insufficient budgets, and dwindling resources. Our church is fortunate to have a Foundation from which we have been supplementing our insufficient budgets for several years. His point was that it cannot continue or the well will eventually run dry. Therefore, income must rise or some difficult decisions will have to be made addressing what the membership will be willing to cut.

Sound familiar? Just like the membership of the church, you, the residents of Castle Hills, have decisions to make about what you want our city to be today and into the future. There are those who advocate eliminating this or that. But you have to decide if that's a good option. Does it really solve the issue, is it worth what you will be giving up, how does it affect the future of our city, and could you get it back once it's gone? There are others who propose that the money is there and all we need to do is be more efficient with our budget and personnel costs. For those not familiar with "political speak," that translates to decreased services and termination of some employees. Then there are those who say if you like the city services you receive, then chip in a little more to cover today's costs. You want steak for dinner, then you have to pay the price for steak. If not, then settle for hamburger. Both deliver your nutritional needs; so you decide which you are willing to pay for. Several years ago the city had a plan that included funds in the annual budget for street repair and maintenance and a rotation schedule of 2 or 3 streets a year to be repaired. In 1999, the newly-elected mayor and council decided to end that plan and the funding for it. A decision that has proven over the years to have been short-sighted at best and disastrous for our streets at worst. Decisions made today have consequences for tomorrow.

Churches, cities, businesses, universities, and colleges all face the same dilemma. What is the desired outcome and what will it cost? Save money by outsourcing garbage collection? You decide if that's an option you are willing to live with. Discontinue VIA services to our city? Again, your choice. Pay more to continue the lifestyle and uniqueness of living in Castle Hills or let the quality of life decline along with the property values? It's up to you. When someone gives you a simple solution, question them. Ask them to identify exactly what are those other options for increased revenue. Will those options change the dynamic or the ethos of the city? Become active. Go to meetings. Talk to your neighbors. Research what you're being told. It's your city and you determine its future. Now back to the original question: What kind of city do you want Castle Hills to be now and in the future? It's your decision. Get involved. Don't let someone else make that decision for you. To paraphrase Plato, one of the penalties for not participating and voting is that you end up being governed by politicians with whom you disagree.

Rick Harada, Public Works Director



Streets, Alleys, and Drainage Ditch

Who is responsible for maintenance?

Streets – Public Works Street Department repair pot holes and crack seal. We replace traffic signs and street name signs.

Alleys – “Out of sight, out of mind”; this may be true for many of us. As with your lawns, residents are responsible for keeping alley ways free and clear of weeds, brush, shrubbery, or any vegetation greater than five inches in height to the center line of the alley. Overhanging brush can cause injury to our employees and equipment. Additionally, storing brush, tree limbs or any trash is not allowed unless it has been placed for collection in accordance with garbage regulations.

Public Works fills pot holes in alley ways as well. Excess water caused by draining swimming pools and allowing water from sprinklers to enter the alley cause deterioration of the alley. If you see water draining from a neighbor's yard into the alley, please bring it to their attention or call Code

Compliance. While water is essential to our everyday lives, it is a detriment to our streets and alleys. Water produced by water leaks and rains cause damage to the streets and alleys by water seeping into the asphalt and traffic traveling over the openings causing the asphalt to begin cracking thereby creating pot holes.

Drains – We spend many hours clearing debris obstructing the drain openings. Some of the debris removed consists of dirt settlement, while much of the debris we remove is placed in the drainage ditch by residents or lawn service individuals. We remove piles of trash, leaves, tree limbs, logs, or bags containing brush. Not only is this practice prohibited by ordinance, but it can be avoided with your help. If you have excess brush, call me and I can offer a quote/surcharge to have it removed from your property usually within 24 hours. If you are paying a lawn service to maintain your property, have them remove the bags or brush from the property.

Unless there is a holiday, brush service is provided to all residents each Wednesday. We will pick up the equivalent of three (3) 30-gallon cans per week. Do not mix brush with your household garbage.

I can be reached at 342-2341, ext. 206



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Castle Hills Police Department

Captain John Siemens

“BUYER BEWARE“, Top 10 Scams Targeting Seniors

Financial abuse, particularly that surrounding the elderly, has become a serious problem in recent years and continues to rise, insomuch as it has become known as “the crime of the 21st century.” One consumer report in 2009 found the economic loss to seniors to be in excess of \$2.6 billion a year. This fact, coupled with the emotional distress caused, can be devastating. The target audience (seniors) for these scams has been chosen for a number of reasons, which includes, but is not limited to the following;

- many seniors are believed to have a relative abundance of money available to them
- due to a lack of reporting, considered a low-risk crime for the actor(s), with devastating effects on the victim
- varying avenues (scams) to perpetrate the crime

Additionally, these particular crimes are often perpetrated by one's own family members or associates (housekeepers, lawn persons, contractors, etc.). This particular fact alone allows for ease of commission and often results in multiple violations. Below is a list of the top 10 scams facing seniors.

1. Health Care/Medicare/Health Insurance Fraud
2. Counterfeit Prescription Drugs
3. Funeral & Cemetery Scams
4. Fraudulent Anti-Aging Products
5. Telemarketing (“The Pigeon Drop”, “The Fake Accident Ploy”, “Charity Scams”)
6. Internet Fraud (Email/Phishing Scams)
7. Investment Schemes
8. Homeowner/Reverse Mortgage Scams
9. Sweepstakes & Lottery Scams
10. The Grandparent Scam

This list is not all inclusive, but encompasses the majority of current scams often reported to law enforcement. One particular scam gaining popularity among those that prey on seniors is #5 above and was recently exposed on national news. **As always, when in doubt, contact your police department, we are always readily available to serve.**

For more information and a detailed description of the scams previously listed, see the following link: <http://www.ncoa.org/enhance-economic-security/economic-security-Initiative/savvy-saving-seniors/top-10-scams-targeting.html#sthash.5rRv7i1K.dpuf>

Additional link to the Bexar County DA site for elderly fraud: http://www.bexar.org/da/elder_fraud.html

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YOUR COMMUNITY



Mayor Smiley-Kaliff recognized Castle Hills resident Sharon Pillet, 2013 Citizen of the Year at the January City Council.



Order of the Arrow Scouts helped clear seven tons of brush on City property January 25, 2014. They were recognized for their contributions to the community at the February 11, 2014 City Council Meeting.



MODERN JEWELRY, located at 6995 Blanco, #1 celebrated a re-grand opening January 31, 2014. Members of the Castle Hills Woman's Club, Mayor Pro Tom Davis, Councilman Catalani and Squire hosted the ribbon cutting ceremony.



BURGER KING is here! On Friday, February 7, 2014 Mayor Pro-Tem Tom Davis, Councilman Catalani and Councilman Squire, along with Castle Hills Woman's Club members joined owners Mr. & Mrs. Robes St. Juste at the Grand Opening Celebration and Ribbon Cutting ceremony. Festivities were held throughout the weekend. Burger King is located at 6003 West Ave.



Janet Thelen, Administrative Assistant was introduced by City Manager Rita Hoyl at the February 11th City Council meeting. Janet is responsible for issuing permits and licenses, scheduling inspections, working with contractors, inspectors, and is the point of contact for citizen inquiries and many other duties.



Maribel Mendoza, Police Department Administrative Assistant was introduced by Captain Johnny Siemens at the February 11th City Council meeting. Maribel's responsibilities to the police department include records retention, reviewing various reports submitted by police officers, accepting police officer applications and numerous other assignments.

May 10, 2014 Elections in the City of Castle Hills

The May 10 Elections in the City of Castle Hills will involve two local elections; the General Election to Elect Council Members in Places 1, 4, and 5; and the Special Election to Consider Reauthorizing the Street and Maintenance Sales and Use Tax to continue generating revenue for the maintenance of our City streets.

On May 10, 2014, the election poll site at Castle Hills City Hall, (the Community Room) will be open from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m.

Early Voting by Personal Appearance is available to anyone would like to vote early. The dates are as follows: Monday, April 28 through Friday, May 2, 8 a.m. – 6 p.m., each day. Saturday, May 3, 8 a.m. – 8 p.m. Monday & Tuesday, May 5 – 6, 8 a.m. to 8 p.m.

Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat
	April 28 8am–6pm	April 2 8am–6pm	April 30 8am–6pm	May 1 8am–6pm	May 2 8am–6pm	May 3 8am–8pm
May 4 – No Voting	May 5 8am–8pm	May 6 8am–8pm	May 7	May 8	May 9	May 10 Election Day 7am–7pm

Please note there will be no early voting on Sunday, May 4.

Early voting takes place at any one of the sites authorized by Bexar County Elections, including Castle Hills City Hall (the Community Room), 209 Lemonwood Drive, Castle Hills, 78213.

The first day to apply for early voting ballots by mail is March 11, 2014, and the last day to apply for early voting ballots by mail is May 1, 2014. Call Bexar County Elections at 210-335-0362 to have an application mailed to you by Bexar County Elections.

Photo ID Required Now to Vote

Voters may use IDs that do not exactly match the name on their IDs if the names are substantially similar but will have to sign an affidavit stating they are the same person.

You must now present one of the following forms of photo ID when voting in person:

- Texas driver license issued by the Texas Department of Public Safety (DPS)
- Texas Election Identification Certificate issued by DPS
- Texas personal identification card issued by DPS
- Texas concealed handgun license issued by DPS
- United States military identification card containing your photograph
- United States citizenship certificate containing your photograph
- United States passport

With the exception of the U.S. citizenship certificate, the identification must be current or have expired no more than 60 days before being presented for voter qualification at the polling place.

Please bring your current Voter Registration Certificate, which is orange and white, with you if you have it.



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Be in the Know!

If you want to receive individual emails direct to your in-box with copies of City of Castle Hills information, please email the City Secretary to subscribe at jwillman@cityofcastlehills.com. We will continue to post agendas and other City-related information on the City's website at www.cityofcastlehills.com. We will continue to post messages on CastleHillsNextDoor.com.

Important to note about castlehillsinfo@cityofcastlehills.com is this. It is a distribution email profile. To ensure any email communications you send our way are delivered as intended, please email staff directly.

What kinds of information may you expect? Copies of posted agendas, snippets of information we think you would like read, flyers with information that is of interest to the community such as the Castle Hills Fiesta Event in April, and more.

If you want to opt out of receiving emails from the City of Castle Hills, email the City Secretary to have your email profile removed from the list of contacts.

Garage and Estate Sales



Spring is here and the sky is blue and the birds are singing... If part of your spring cleaning includes planning a garage or estate sale this year, did you know a permit is required?

A garage sale permit is good for two consecutive days, and an estate sale for three days. The hours for a garage sale or estate sale is 7 am to 6 pm. A sales tax permit is required for issuance of a city permit for an estate sale. Each resident is allowed two garage or estate sales per calendar year per location not to exceed one garage or estate sale per quarter and the sales must be at least 90 days apart.

Signs advertising garage or estate sales shall be limited to two on-premises signs that do not exceed four square feet in surface area. Signs must be staked and cannot be attached to utility poles, streetlight standards or other public facilities. Signs shall not be exhibited more than two days prior to the sale and shall be removed at the expiration of the garage or estate sale permit.

In the event of rainy weather, a rain check may be granted if you contact the permit department at city hall by sending an email or by calling and leaving a voice message on the day of the cancelled garage sale or estate sale. The number to call for a rain check is (210) 342-2341 ext. 215.

Submitted by Code Compliance – Terri Leone

Castle Hills Homeowners Association

By John Strieb, President

The Castle Hills Homeowners Association held its' annual meeting on January 13, 2014. We elected the following officers for 2014: John Strieb, President, Nancy Batchelder, Vice President, Trey Batchelder, Treasurer, Stacia Spridgen, Secretary, and Kathy Friedrich, Joyce Buie, and Debbie Reeves as Board members.

There was much discussion and questions from those present at the meeting regarding membership, planned activities, and the goals of our association.

Officers and Board members will meet in February to discuss the ideas and suggestions made at the annual meeting. We appreciate the input made by those present.

We are in the middle of membership renewal and have sent out renewal notices at the end of December. We have had a good response but if you have not renewed, find the notice and renew as soon as possible. For those who are not members we encourage you to join. Membership is \$25 per year and dues can be mailed to the Castle Hills Homeowners Association, 6804 West Ave, San Antonio, TX 78213. Include your name, address, phone number and e-mail address, or I can send you an application. E-mail me at jfs@prodigy.net or call 308-7113. One issue I would like to address that came up at our annual meeting was the perception that many residents have of our association being a "Homeowners Association". Actually, as you can see from our name we are a homeowners association but our goals and mission are different than most. Most homeowners associations are established to enforce deed restriction, operate club houses, swimming pools, etc. The Castle Hills HOA has no authority to enforce any rules or ordinances related to the Castle Hills community. Code enforcement is handled by Castle Hills City personnel. We are an organization that promotes the interaction of community members through events and activities that enhance the quality of life in our community. We can only have a strong community if we know our neighbors and communicate with them on a regular basis. This is why most of our events and activities are open to all residents of the community. Our coordination with other community organizations such as the Woman's and Garden Clubs, National Night Out, Fiesta Castle Hills, the City, and the Civic Participation Committee is another element in improving the quality of life in our City.

We continue to use Nextdoor and our e-mail list for communication. If anyone in the Castle Hills Community wants to join Nextdoor let me know and I will invite you to join. Nextdoor currently has over 200 members. Residents have used it to look for lost pets, post garage sales, notify residents of meetings, sell or give away items, etc. The City has also posted emergency information. No charge and it is monitored. Your information will not be sold or used for any other purpose.

We look forward to a great year.

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Registration Required

Are your pets current on their vaccinations? All domestic pets in Castle Hills must be registered with the City. Registration is only \$10. Please bring proof of current rabies vaccination for each pet.

Leash Law

Please be reminded that a dog must be under proper restraints at all times if not on the owner's premises. Although cats shall be exempt from the leash requirement while on the premises of the owner, any cat straying on the property of anyone except its owner shall be deemed a nuisance animal and will be subject to impoundment.

Pooper Scooper Law

Be a responsible pet owner. When walking your dog, you must carry the appropriate materials to pick up and remove waste immediately.

Fences

Protect your pet. Please check your fence for any openings that may allow your pet to leave the property. Your pet could get lost, hurt, or hurt others.



Go Green

Let's Do Our Part in Helping the Environment!

The Castle Hills Reporter in an effort to reduce waste related to the bi-monthly Castle Hills Report. To do this, Neighborhood News is offering to email you an electronic copy instead of a paper copy. By your opting to receive an electronic copy instead of a paper copy will also save on production costs on having less to print and postage costs by delivering fewer paper copies of the City of Castle Hills' bi-monthly newsletter.

How can you get the newsletters delivered to your in-box and out of your mail box?

1. Visit www.NeighborhoodNews.com
2. Click on: "Let's do our part" and follow the directions.

Information in this article is courtesy of Neighborhood News.

fiesta 2014
CASTLE HILLS
FAMILY FUN
At "The Commons"
on the corner of Lemonwood
and Honeysuckle, next to City Hall

SAT. APRIL 12, 2014

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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fiesta
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SAT. APRIL 12, 2014
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at the corner of Honeysuckle & Lemonwood

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3:00pm - 5:00pm

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Big Band Dance

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Wednesday, March 26th, 2014

6:00pm - 9:00pm

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RSVP by Monday, March 24th ~ *Limited Seating*

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