

May 2014

The Castle Hills **Reporter**

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Message From the Mayor



Bruce Smiley-Kaliff

How much do I love the city I live in? Let me count the ways! The good people who live, work, and do business in Castle Hills have invested endless hours of their time, financial resources, and enthusiasm into a vision that ensures our future continues to be bright. These are some of the things that are going on right here, right now:

Many of our citizens devote their time, talents, and expertise to various City boards, commissions and committees with the goal of making our City a vibrant and successful community. The Castle Hills Homeowners' Association recently changed its name to Castle Hills Community Organization (C.H.C.O) to reflect a message of re-energized direction and to signal that this group is on the move. The Castle Hills Woman's Club and Castle Hills Garden Club have been active in our City for more than 60 years and, along with many monetary contributions, have brought a spirit of helping, beautification and good citizenship to our community. This year, the Woman's Club launched a project called "because I said I would." at Jackson-Keller Elementary that is already having positive effects throughout the school and our community by teaching the importance of keeping promises. Also this year, the Woman's Club has led the way to update and refresh our Community Room at City Hall. The annual Fiesta Castle Hills event began as the dream of Rick and Marianne Huizar, created with the goal of uniting our community with a fun run/walk, parade, and assorted fun-filled festivities. Five years later, Fiesta Castle Hills continues to grow in popularity, participation, and size.

Our business community is also thriving. In the past 16 months alone, 83 new businesses have opened in Castle Hills. Since the November 2012 grand opening of Jimmy's Egg, more than 30 ribbon cuttings have been staged at Castle Hills businesses, ranging from restaurants to medical practices to real estate offices to retail establishments. City officials and Woman's Club members turn out at these events in a show of support and welcoming. Business owners unfailingly continue to express gratitude for these efforts and delight in being made to feel so at home and appreciated by the community. The Castle Hills/Shavano Park Business Alliance now has 50+ members who represent and/or advocate for the business community. In the very near future, the new corporate headquarters of the prestigious Pape-Dawson Engineering firm and Bank of San Antonio will soon be completed, bringing hundreds of employees who will soon be shopping, eating, and perhaps even making their homes here.

Speaking of eating, Castle Hills has a surprisingly wide variety of restaurants serving international cuisines. From Mexican to Italian to Greek to Moroccan to Asian to European

to All-American, you can take a culinary trip around the world right here in our own neighborhood.

And don't forget the delicious croissants or aromatic coffees or fair trade chocolates sold at our many unique specialty shops.

NEISD public schools in Castle Hills have been educating our children for over 50 years.

There's a new surge of energy and community spirit at the recently renovated Jackson-Keller Elementary. As the district's only year-round magnet school, Castle Hills Elementary has been a highly sought-after choice for parents who enjoy the flexibility of the schedule and the school's focus on arts in education. STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering & Math) Academy at Nimitz Middle School and the acclaimed North East School of the Arts at Robert E. Lee High School attract high-performing and exceptionally talented students from all over the city. Trinity University's professional development partnership with Jackson Middle School, Lee High School, and the International School of the Americas has contributed outstanding teachers to our schools while enhancing the educational opportunities for students. The Washington Post and Newsweek recently ranked Winston Churchill High School in the top 1% of all high schools in the country. And U.S. News and World Report named the pioneering International School of the Americas (ISA), located on the Lee campus, #215 of The Best High Schools in America and #29 in the state of Texas. Along with these notable public schools, excellent Castle Hills parochial schools like St. George Episcopal, Castle Hills First Baptist, and Antonian College Preparatory High School have served our community's educational needs for many years.

And if all that isn't enough, add the top-notch police, fire, public works and administrative City departments with their hard-working employees dedicated to serving our community and ensuring our quality of life. My fellow council members and I are likewise committed to serving everyone in our community and building a vision by contributing our ideas and professional skills. We don't always agree on how things should be done but we do agree that we will continue to work together to make our City of Castle Hills a place we are all proud of and grateful to call home.

It's an honor and a privilege for me to serve you as "Everyone's Mayor," and I thank you.

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

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

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Non-emergency (210) 342-2341

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

City Council
2nd Tuesday, 6:30pm

Achitectural 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

Exciting news! In the last newsletter I informed you on the progress of our proposed street maintenance plan and that Public Works Director Rick Harada and I would be bringing forth a recommendation on how we would proceed with this plan. After many months of meetings, Rick Harada, Councilman John Squire and I are ready to implement a formal street maintenance plan and we are "moving forward"!

In March, Council approved the funds to support moving toward the first step of our formal program. First, after viewing demonstrations from different software companies to assist in prioritizing the work/maintenance for our streets, we recommended to Council, and they approved the expenditures to purchase the Cartegraph Software. This operating system will depict maps of our city streets, and maintain a database of the work that needs to be performed or work that has been performed. The map will show the conditions of the streets, traffic and street signs, show the street lengths, widths, etc. It will assist us in managing the day-to-day operations, and will assist with prioritizing the streets that need repairs, crack sealing, etc. Bottom line, this tool will help us work more efficiently and be proactive in getting the work done.

In April, Rick Harada, and I brought forth an agenda item, to allocate up to \$250,000 for Council's consideration to begin funding a street rejuvenation program. The City Council approved the funds. You

will soon see activity in our City of this program in action. Over the last several months, we met with paving companies, and other cities' public works directors, to get an understanding of pavement management solutions and how the solution work in other jurisdictions. We found that Pavement Restoration, a single source provider in Texas, offers Reclamite® Preservative Seal, an asphalt rejuvenator-sealer that penetrates into the asphalt and restores flexibility to extend the life of the pavement. Understand that this product will not "fix" our streets. This product is a part of our Preventative Maintenance program; not a new road project, patch, or pot hole repair program. Reclamite® Preservative Seal will maintain the life of the streets, with 75% of useful life that are in "good" condition, for the next four years. After that time, the product can be applied once again to add an additional four years to the life of the street.

We will post on our website and on NextDoor, along with sending an email blast to those registered on **Constant Contact News**, a map and the list of the 42 street areas that were rated as good candidates for this product. Only streets that were rated 75% or higher are candidates for the application, so it's possible that an entire street may not receive the application. Pavement Restoration will begin the work in July. Residents will receive a door drop/hanger notification a day before the product is applied, unless the weather changes production plans.

I give thanks to City Council in supporting our recommendations to begin this most important endeavor for our streets.

Not signed up on **Constant Contact News**? Please email jwillman@cityofcastlehills.com and request to be added to this list.



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COUNCIL MEETING

HIGHLIGHTS



March 11, 2014 - City Council Meeting

- Heard an update from the Streets and Drainage Committee Chair Dr. Richard Szecsy on the processes used and the progress made to-date regarding the task charged to the Committee by the City Council.
- Approved the February 2014 Treasurer's Report.
- Appointed two Alternate Members to the Board of Adjustment, Mr. Van Garcia and Mr. Ralph LaBorde.
- Renewed the Depository Agreement with International Bank of Commerce for a period of one year beginning April 1, 2014 through March 31, 2015.
- Amended the FY2014 Budget; making an adjustment removing the Special Collection line item #60-5023.
- Amended the FY2014 Budget; making an adjustment in the FY2014 Court Security Fund up to \$10,000 for security modifications to the Court Room.
- Authorized the expenditure of \$27,450 from the CIED Fund to purchase the Cartegraph Software Program, used to map, plan, and prioritize street maintenance work, to complement the City's Street Maintenance Program by minute order. It was reported to the City Council that a corresponding \$6,000 expenditure from available funds in the Street Maintenance Fund would complete the payment for the Cartegraph Software Program.
- Authorized the City Manager to develop and publish a Request for Proposal (RFP) to initiate the procurement process by obtaining bids, etc., in the Stone Oak / Castle Hills / Shavano Park Weekly classifieds and on the City's website. See related item in April 8, 2014 – City Council Meeting Highlights.
- Amended the CPS Energy Franchise Fee to 4.5% and the term of the franchise fee agreement was extended for a twenty-year period commencing February 1, 2014.
- Allocated up to \$10,000 from the CIED Fund to supplement the Woman's Club funding gift of \$3,000 for upgrades in the Community Room for lighting, carpeting and other improvements based on the extensive use by community groups, Bexar County Elections, City Council, City boards, and use by City staff for training.
- Denied a request from Larry Gottsman, agent for Eyes of San Antonio, located at 1009 NW Loop 410, for a variance to the height requirement along NW Loop 410 and spacing requirement between digital on-premise signs for installation of a digital cabinet on an existing pole, based on the ordinance standards in place at the time of the City Council hearing on the appeal.

April 8, 2014 - City Council Meeting

- Issued a Proclamation for proclaiming Saturday, April 12, 2014 as Fiesta Castle Hills Day.
- Updated the City Council on the Progress and Changes to the Request For Proposals Digital Signs. The City Manager reported the need to extend the due date for receipt (from April 7 to May 7) and subsequent process dates based on the need to obtain clarification on jurisdictional responsibilities over a part of West Avenue north and south of Loop 410 between the City of Castle Hills and the Texas Department of Transportation.
- Heard a presentation from VIA based on the City's participation in the MTA (Metropolitan Transit Authority) sales and use tax at the rate of one-half percent since January 1, 1978, in order to answer the greater community's questions about continued VIA service in Castle Hills and its impact on residential and business users and riders from outside Castle Hills who use the service to access businesses and services within the City.
- Received an update informing the City Council that the anticipated

Final Report and Recommendations from Streets and Drainage Committee had been re-scheduled to the May 13, 2014 City Council Meeting instead of the April 8, 2014 City Council Meeting.

- Approved the March 2014 Treasurer's Report.
- Adopted an Ordinance Establishing Chapter 16 Environment, Stormwater Requirements, in the City of Castle Hills Code of Ordinances.
- Adopted an Ordinance Amending Chapter 38, Streets, Sidewalks and Other Public Places, Adding Article VII, Work in the Public Rights of Way, to the City of Castle Hills Code of Ordinances.
- Adopted an Ordinance Replacing and Repealing Chapter 40 Subdivisions, to include Expanding Replat Submissions and Setting Planning Standards for Street Construction.
- Adopted an Ordinance Establishing Chapter 19 Flood Damage Prevention, in the City of Castle Hills Code of Ordinances, Replacing and Repealing Floodplain and Floodway Standards as Required by the Federal Emergency Management Agency for Flood Damage Prevention.
- Ratified the appointment of Mayor Bruce Smiley-Kaliff, City Manager Rita Hoyle, City Attorney Michael Brennan, Ms. Debbie Reeves, City Treasurer, and Dennis Chavez, resident and registered contractor, to serve as an Ad-Hoc Committee to Review and Evaluate RFP Proposals Received for Digital Billboards and Make Recommendations to the City Council Based on the RFP Criteria.
- Considered Accepting the Request for Qualifications (RFQ) for City Attorney Services and City Engineer Services and Authorizing the City Manager to Execute the Contract for Legal and Engineering Services, respectively. Based on a very limited response, the City Council authorized the City Manager to revise and re-publish the RFQs and bring back information to the City Council in June.
- Conducted a Public Hearing and considered the recommendation of the Zoning Commission, by a vote of 4 to 0, to approve an application for a Special Use Permit (SUP) for a Free-Standing Emergency Room at 6999 Blanco Rd., Zoned "G" General Business District, Arete Urgent Care, PLLC Applicant. The City Council voted unanimously to approve the SUP request.
- Adopted an Ordinance Amending Chapter 34 Billboards and Signs of the City of Castle Hills Code of Ordinances, Section 34-3, (3) c, to Revise the Spacing Requirements for On-Premise Digital Signs and Section 34-4, (3) Adding a Minimum 150' Spacing Requirement from Residences and Residential Zones for Off-Premise Digital Signs.
- Allocated up to \$250,000 from the Street Maintenance Fund for the Purchase of an Asphalt Rejuvenation Application for City Streets and Authorized the City Manager to Sign the Contract for Services with Single Source Provider, Pavement Restoration, after reviewing a formal quote and map detailing a list of partial City streets reflecting 75,907 square yards and 127,442 square yards for a total amount of \$223,683.90 in funding for turn-key application at \$1.10 per square yard of City streets qualifying at 75 percent or greater of useful remaining life.
- Received and Acknowledged a Presentation by the City Manager of the 2014 First Quarter Investment Report.

Thank You Sandi Wolff!

A very special thank you to citizen, Sandi Wolff who kindly donated a refrigerator to the Public Works Department. The public works staff endure the brutal South Texas heat and greatly appreciate the refrigerator with an ice maker

EMPLOYEE HIGHLIGHTS

Anniversaries

10-Years

Justin Garcia, Fire Department

1-Year

John Siemens, Police Department

CITY OFFICES CLOSED MEMORIAL DAY, MAY 26TH

City Offices will be closed in remembrance of the men and women who died while serving in the United States Armed Forces

Trash and Brush Pick-up During the Holiday Week is as follows:

Southside trash pick-up is moved from Monday to Tuesday, May 27th and Thursday, May 29th.

Northside trash pick-up is Wednesday, May 28th and Friday, May 30th.

Normal trash pick-up will resume the week of June 2, 2014.

NO BRUSH PICK-UP on the week of May 26th – May 30th. Brush pick-up will resume on Wednesday, June 4, 2014.



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Council Comments



Michael Catalani
Place 1

As some of you may know, I serve as council liaison to the Strategic Planning Committee. The committee, chaired by Mr. Juan Solis, has been busy and very active in our community. Three of the specific responsibilities of the committee include:

*making recommendations to the city council related to the city's mission, vision, strategic initiatives, major programs and services;

*helping council identify critical strategic issues facing the city, assisting in analysis of alternative strategic options;

*ensuring the city will establish an effective strategic planning process, including development of a three to five year strategic plan with measurable goals and time targets.

The committee is made up of essentially five (5) sub-committees:

1. Infrastructure (streets, drainage and traffic)
2. Basic Services (police, fire and sanitation)
3. Neighborhood Preservation (education, zoning, community building, open space and code compliance)
4. Business Development/Redevelopment (business development/retention)
5. Speakers Bureau

Part of the strategic planning process starts with an understanding of who we are as a city. Committee members were initially briefed on our city's demographics, city governance and services, business and commercial environment, and development challenges in order to help develop a vision for the future.

The committee has been reaching out to our community partners consisting of residents, local churches and schools, as well as businesses. Just recently, the Neighborhood Preservation Sub Committee held its first of several neighborhood meetings to solicit comments and input on education, zoning, community building, open space, and code compliance.

The Business Development Sub Committee recently met with the Castle Hills/Shavano Park Business Alliance to get their opinion and insight on doing business in our city.

All in all, the Strategic Planning Committee is moving forward in a positive way for the future of Castle Hills. I am proud and fortunate to serve as Council Liaison to this committee.

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

that include: Neighborhood Preservation, Zoning, Code Compliance, Community Building, Open Space utilization, and Education. Residents were invited to join the discussion to provide feedback and ideas. Some of the questions discussed include: What are the unique qualities that make our neighborhoods "Castle Hills"? What should the neighborhoods, shopping, and business areas look like in the future? What are the positive characteristics of Castle Hills, should we keep and enhance them? What improvements/changes are needed? Using the current Castle Hills Community organizations, what are the opportunities for community building? While more work and focus groups will occur, their intent is to provide analysis and incorporate recommendations into the overall Castle Hills Strategic Plan. Many thanks to Juan Solis, Jack Joyce and the committee members for leading this charge and those residents who participated in the Neighborhood focus group; these discussions will help lead to action and planning for the future!

- The Castle Hills Women's Club with the inspiration from past president, Denise Haley, will sponsor the "because I said I would campaign" at the Jackson-Keller Elementary School. Founded by Alex Sheen, this social movement and nonprofit organization began when his father died of small cell lung cancer on September 4th, 2012. His father was good with his promises, so Alex titled his father's eulogy "because I said I would" and created the promise card in his memory. The intent of this organization is dedicated to improving humanity through the power of a promise. The children, teachers, and parents at Jackson-Keller have embraced this idea that encourages positive change and acts of kindness, using these "promise cards" to remember the importance of their word, for promises both big and small....a valuable lesson for us all!
- The Castle Hills Homeowner's Association recently held a member meeting to present and vote on the board's recommendation to change the name and by-laws of the organization to reflect its' current mission and scope. The new name of the organization is the Castle Hills Community Organization or CHCO which hosts social events throughout the year to promote and strengthen community ties. Read more about this organization and future social events in John Strieb's, CHCO President, Castle Hills Reporter article!
- For more information about Castle Hills and future events and meetings, check out the city's website at www.cityofcastlehills.com

place2@cityofcastlehills.com



John Squire,
PLACE 3

The maintenance plan for our streets continues to move forward. The city has worked on and Council has approved the utilization of a pavement rejuvenation process that will help to extend the life of our streets. By the time this issue arrives in your mailbox, a test section of one of our streets will have

been completed and will be under evaluation before moving forward with this process. Additionally, the city is now working with a company named Cartegraph (www.cartegraph.com) to help us develop an additional part of the program for ongoing street maintenance. As such, the implementation of what Cartegraph can provide will greatly help our City to proactively manage the maintenance of our streets. Moving forward with this process continues to take time and effort. We did not get ourselves into this situation overnight and hence the challenge involved in getting our street maintenance back on the right track.

And now another topic, VIA. At the April city council meeting the



Stacia Spridgen,
Place 2

Positive Happenings in Castle Hills!

- The Castle Hills' Strategic Planning Committees' Chairman, Juan Solis, and its' 18 members, are developing a plan to guide the future and vision of the city. On Tuesday, March 25th, the Neighborhood subcommittee's, chaired by Jack Joyce, held their first focus group to brainstorm and document potential areas of study

<<Council Comments Continued From Page 6

beginnings of the first real debate on this issue finally happened. Information on this issue has been sent out and questioned within our City over the past few months which I believe has helped to elevate it to where council has finally started to discuss it. This discussion needs to continue to help bring all the facts to light. However, as Alderman Spridgen questioned our city attorney one thing became very clear from him, in that if the sales tax funds currently used to support VIA were redirected by the voters with the various options available to our city, then these funds can be used to help offset the costs for repair of our streets. Over the long term, these funds could help cover over a quarter of the cost for street repair and I believe that Council and our citizens should continue this discussion and work to eventually put it out for a vote and let the citizens decide. Finally, the funds from the ½ cent sales tax that currently go to VIA at best would only be part of the solution for finding the money to repair our streets. As the Street and Drainage Committee has been doing, we need to look at and consider all viable options to garner the funds for our streets. Nothing should be off the table and ALL options should be considered.

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 all know the buzz in the city continues to be infrastructure, streets, and maintenance of our city, and rightly so. As I have said before, please study all the information provided to you...our future depends on it. All of the offerings that are provided out there should

be carefully studied, reviewed, and checked out thoroughly. Come to our council meetings, and please be an informed voter.

In this next election on May 10th there will be a major item on the ballot. This item will be to renew the 1/4% sales tax for our streets. This tax, which generates \$250,000 for our streets, is paid in revenue from sales tax, not tax on property. That means by anything that is BOUGHT in CASTLE HILLS, by anyone who lives here, and also anyone who lives out of our city. We as residents win twice by this 1/4% sales tax. If you purchase something in Castle Hills you support our businesses. The second win is letting people outside Castle Hills help pay for our infrastructure through this sales tax. A HUGE WIN/WIN. This is only part of the major decisions you as voters will be making.

As I am writing this letter, VIA will have made their presentation to the City of Castle Hills, regarding the sales tax that we as citizens pay for the bus service in and out of the city. This discussion could very well spark a desire by you the citizen to put this critical issue on the ballot. Either way, I am going on record saying that no matter what is decided in this issue, I for one feel it is an obligation of an informed council that this city not suffer any loss of services. This can be accomplished by searching all avenues of transportation services that are made available to our city from public and private companies.

Lastly, as we move into the most important months of this city's future, thank you for allowing me the honor to serve you. Being unopposed in this election allows me the uninterrupted opportunity to continue the hard work I have been engaged in to make a difference in Castle Hills. I appreciate you doing your part to support this city that I know you love

as much as I do. Please feel free to call me with your positive ideas, or comments.

Timothy A Howell
Cell-210-535-9094
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MrCastleHills@twitter.com



Tom Davis,
PLACE 5, Mayor Pro Tem

Depending on when you receive this publication, the seemingly endless annual Castle Hills spring elections may or may not be over. I hope you participated in our democratic process by supporting your favorite candidates and voted. This year e-mailing became a force for electioneering that many of us were tired of 2 weeks after candidate filing. Many residents responded with, "I didn't give you my e-mail. How did you get it?" Others were more distressed. "You don't have permission to use my e-mail and if you continue I'll prosecute." In truth, no one needs your permission to send you an e-mail message any more than they need your permission to send you junk mail.

Even if you have an e-mail account you have never used, your e-mail address is out there ready for the picking. First, the easiest way to obtain someone's e-mail address is to ask for it. Or, if someone sends you an e-mail, you automatically have access to their e-mail address. Those are the obvious means. There are less obvious mechanisms you may not be aware of or may not have considered. If you have ever received and forwarded a joke, or one of those e-mails requesting that you send this hug, balloon, rose, or some other cute remembrance to 10 friends, you just gave your e-mail address to everyone who forwards that e-mail to others. My e-mail address book contains at least 100 such e-mail addresses culled over the years from e-mails sent by friends that contained other e-mail addresses. Or how about social networks: Facebook, Twitter, Myspace, Amazon, flickr, ebay, Yahoo, or Google? Do you use any of those or other social media sites? Well, surprise. There are dozens and dozens of sites that will search social media sites to locate an e-mail for you for a cost or for free. Wordstream (www.wordstream.com) is a free site that gives you 12 ways to locate anybody's e-mail address. Email Search Crawler is a site that you can download for free and search hundreds of web sites for e-mail addresses. Even most of those social networks mentioned above link to sites that can locate e-mail addresses for you. Yahoo links to www.zabasearch.com which you can also link to directly. And then there are the search engines that may cost a few dollars, but are faster and much more expansive.

If you have a land line telephone, anyone can look up your telephone number. The internet makes that incredibly easy, but you could use the old fashion telephone book. Your home address, the value of your home, the amount of taxes you pay, who your car is registered to, any debts, liens, or other financial liabilities are just as easy to find through public resources or, again, our friend the internet. Nothing is private once it goes out on the internet. So, why would anyone assume that your e-mail address is somehow protected, irretrievable, and subject to your permission for use? It is, in fact, none of those.

Rick Harada, Public Works Director



Hello Castle Hills,

Summer is around the corner and it's going to be HOT. We thank you for continuing to keep your yard looking its best. A reminder, please don't overstuff trash bags. During hot weather, plastic trash bags have a tendency to weaken, therefore causing the bags to tear when picked up by the sanitation crew. Remember, the ordinance allows for a maximum size of 30 gallon lawn bags. Ten bags of trimmings or leaves may be placed out on the first day of your trash collection. If more than ten bags are placed out for collection, the sanitation crew will not pick-up any of the bags. If you have an excess of bags, place only ten out for collection and keep the remainder stored in your rear or side yard for the following week collection day. Excess bags, bulky items and construction materials can be picked up for a surcharge. Call public works at 342-2341, ext. 206 for an estimate and to arrange pick-up.

The City participation in recycling is growing, but we need your help. Please do not put any type of plastic bags in the recycle bins. Waste Management, the recycling center, will automatically deduct a percentage of the weight we deliver (reducing dollars for the City) if they see any plastic bags going through their center. Plastic bags are considered waste and not a recycled item. Your cooperation and participation is greatly appreciated.

Waste Management pays the City for:

Newspaper – Aluminum cans – Tin cans (vegetable, tuna, etc.) – Glass (No drinking glass, light bulbs, fluorescent lights, broken windows panes or mirrors) - All plastic containers.

Recycle bins can be purchased at City Hall for \$10 and recycle bin lids for \$5. If you have any questions or concerns, please call me at 342-2341, ext. 206.

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Castle Hills Police Department

Captain John Siemens

With Spring here and Summer fast approaching, one can expect changes. Many of these changes include warmer weather, home improvement projects, family gatherings, and vacations to name just a few. In addition to these simple pleasures, summer historically brings increases in crime, particularly residential burglaries and thefts, often a direct result of windows or doors being left open/unsecured, and folks traveling. As such, this becomes one of the more important times to focus on home security. In an effort to combat these "confidence" crimes (aptly named as most criminals will identify evidence of an empty resident prior to making entry or committing a theft), we have compiled a brief list of measures one can take, they are as follows;

- Make efforts to secure your home/garage, and toys/tools, even on short trips to the hardware store or for groceries
 - o window stops are a good idea if you must leave them open
 - o do not advertise items in your garage or outbuilding by leaving doors open unnecessarily or equipment lying around
- o secure lawn equipment and/or any other gardening tools when not in use
- Notify a friend/family member/neighbor of your plans to travel
 - o have someone pickup mail or newspapers
 - o place various lights on timers
 - o identify/photograph & secure valuables (obtain serial numbers where applicable)
- Notify the police department of plans to travel
 - o get added to the House Check log while on trips
- Yard maintenance
 - o remove unnecessary shrubbery or debris from doors and windows (remove hiding places)
 - o keep lawn well groomed and devoid of weeds
- Avoid leaving contractors/landscapers alone at your residence.

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YOUR COMMUNITY



(1) Police Chief Wayne Davis attended the Castle Hills Woman's Club meeting and provided a Crime Prevention Presentation on March 3rd.



Christine Catalani, pictured with Chief Davis (left) and Captain Siemens (right) guessed the closest answer to the question "When an officer shows up to your house, besides his/her life, how much is he/she worth? Ms. Catalani guessed \$6,000 and the correct answer was \$5,776 for an officer in full uniform with accessories, i.e., belt, weapons, radio, flashlight, etc.



Over The Top Cake Supplies at 1010 NW Loop 410, celebrated their Ribbon Cutting ceremony on March 8th. Members of the Castle Hills Woman's Club, Mayor Pro-Tem Tom Davis and Councilman Michael Catalani attended the ceremony. Owner Kevin Johnson cut the ribbon.



Castle Hills Family Dental, located at 1931 NW Military Hwy., Suite 225 celebrated their new office with a ribbon cutting ceremony March 28th. Dr. Rafael Mercado cut the ribbon with Mayor Smiley-Kaliff, Councilman Michael Catalani and the Castle Hills Woman's Club.



On March 15, approximately 30 members (adults and children) performed community service at the Commons. They weeded the walking trail and spread crushed granite along the trail and placed mulch around the shrubs.



Thai Topaz, located at 2177 NW Military Hwy. celebrated a ribbon cutting ceremony on March 21st. Owner, David Thanairongroj allowed his mother-in-law to do the honors of cutting the ribbon alongside Mayor Pro Tem Tom Davis, Councilmembers Michael Catalani and Tim Howell, and members of the Castle Hills Woman's Club. After the ceremony, everyone was treated a variety of dishes, to include Summer Rolls, Spring Rolls, Pad Thai, Orange Mango Chicken, and sweet treats.



City Council and staff were invited to tour the Pape-Dawson building on March 25th while it is undergoing construction at 2000 NW Loop 410. Mayor Smiley-Kaliff, Councilmember Stacia Spridgen, City Manager Hoyl, and Police Chief Davis took a 30-minute tour provided by Sam Dawson.



Castle Hills Municipal Court Judge, Harold McCall sworn to practice before the US Supreme Court in Washington, DC on April 7, 2014. Pictured left to right: Justice Alito, Judge McCall, Chief Justice John Roberts.

Castle Hills Community Organization Upcoming Events

Friday Movie Nights at the Commons (Start at dusk)
(In the event of excessive heat or rain, Movie Night is held in the council chambers)

May 16th
July 18th
August 15th
September 19th

Safety Awareness Night –
Thursday, October 2nd, 7:00 p.m. City Hall

Halloween Party –
Thursday, October 25th, 6:00 p.m.

We are a family oriented, community organization that strives to improve the quality of life in our city.

City of Castle Hills Magnets

If you stopped by the Strategic Planning Committee Informational Booth at the City of Castle Hills Fiesta Celebration on April 12, you probably picked up a City of Castle Hills magnet. Jana Baker, a local resident who has graciously been serving as a member of the Strategic Planning Committee and chairing the Basic Services Subcommittee generously designed and purchased the magnets as part of the outreach efforts to engage citizens with city hall and city government.

Next time you have a question, concern, or a great idea for the city you now have at your fingertips the phone number, address, and city website.

A thank you to all who donate their time, talents and treasure in making Castle Hills a dynamic, progressive, involved community, and a great place to live and work. And a big thank you to Jana Baker for supplying the magnets!



because I said I would.
A promise made. A promise kept.

These simple words are part of a community partnership to provide character building skills to future adults and future leaders. The Castle Hills Woman's Club have been going "Back to School" at Jackson-Keller Elementary School since February 2013 as part of their civic outreach programs. The Castle Hills Woman's Club recently introduced **because I said I would**, a four month program that began in February, in which the students are provided a "promise card" (the size of a business card) once a month on which they can write a promise to commit to an act of kindness. Teachers and staff are also participating allowing the students to observe adults setting good examples of character and positive citizenship. The promise card aids the students and the adults in remembering the importance of a promise.

Jackson-Keller Elementary is committed to providing the students with self-management tools to create a culture of responsibility, honesty, respect, perseverance, compassion and self-discipline, and **because I said I would** is a hands-on opportunity to practice those skills. The Castle Hills Woman's Club is hoping this project will become a district wide program embraced by other NEISD campuses. Kudos to Castle Hills Woman's Club for setting an example of outstanding character as they generously give of their time and talents for this and so many other civic programs. Thanks to Principal Anna Nicolai for teaching life skills in addition to the 3 "R"s!

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Change is in the Air

Castle Hills Community Organization (CHCO)
By John Strieb, President

I am proud to be writing this article as president of the Castle Hills Community Organization. Like most residents of Castle Hills you probably have not heard of such an organization. At a special meeting on March 25, the membership voted to change the name of the Castle Hills Homeowner's Association to the **Castle Hills Community Organization**. The vote also included changes to our by-laws and Mission statement. All these changes were made with the vote to change the by-laws.

Our new Mission Statement is as follows:

"The Castle Hills Community Organization (CHCO) is a community oriented organization that hosts social events throughout the year. We reach out to all Castle Hills families and households to encourage participation in each special event which helps unify and strengthen our community".

The changes resulted from membership discussion at our annual meeting in January of the direction and purpose of the organization. The Board reviewed the comments over the period of several months. After much discussion Nancy Batchelder took the recommendations and presented the Board with revised by-laws. These were again reviewed, and then presented to the membership for a vote. Those at the March meeting made minor recommendations for changes and then voted for approval.

In my article in the March Castle Hills Reporter, I outlined some of the issues our organization faced with the word "Homeowner's Association" as part of our name. This can be reviewed on the Castle Hills Website.

At our March meeting Ms. Betsy Asheim, Principal at Castle Hills Elementary School gave an excellent presentation on Castle Hills Elementary and her desire to be a vital part of our community. She encourages residents to contact her for more information and tours if they would like to see the facilities.

I also understand that the Strategic Planning Committee is actively meeting and desires your input on issues relating to the City. I do not have contact information but I am sure the City Manager's office can get you in touch with the right folks.

By the time you read this article, we will have already participated in Fiesta Castle Hills where we had a booth and also the annual Easter Egg Hunt which is always a hit with the kids.

Other events scheduled this year are Movie Nights, a Safety Awareness Night about the time of National Night Out, and the Halloween Party. Keep an eye out for dates and updates on the Castle Hills Website, NextDoor, and the Castle Hills marquee. If you want to join NextDoor send me an e-mail and I will officially invite you.

We are still accepting memberships for 2014 which is \$25 per year. With the changes to our by-laws all residents of Castle Hills are eligible as well as local business owners. You can contact me at jfs@prodigy.net for more information or if you just want to bypass me you can send checks to CHCO 6804 West Ave, San Antonio, TX 78213.

Castle Hills – a great community and a great place to live! Get and stay involved to make it even a better place.

Vehicles Code Compliance

At the end of each month do you remember to check your windshield(s) to verify that your vehicle inspection and registration are still valid? Unfortunately life is filled with these seemingly never ending tasks that require our attention that are sometimes overlooked. Remember to check vehicles that are not driven frequently. State law requires that vehicles pass an annual safety evaluation for an inspection sticker, and that vehicle registrations renew annually helping to maintain accurate title records on vehicles.

City codes require that vehicles parked in residential areas including multi-family housing have a current registration sticker, inspection sticker and license plate displayed on vehicle. The vehicles must be operable and street legal. Vehicles must be parked on the paved driveway or in a carport or garage. No vehicles may park in the front yard or unenclosed side yard.

If your bucket list includes restoring the car of your dreams, you need to be aware that inoperable vehicles are prohibited in the city. There are a few exceptions, so if you want to start on that project vehicle contact the city manager's office for an inoperable vehicle parking permit. This permit will provide you a 90 day time window to bring your dream from the wrecking yard to the car show. Inoperable vehicle permits allow you to work on and store the vehicle in a garage closed to view from the street, alley and neighboring properties. If you choose to park the vehicle in the rear yard, the vehicle must be inside the setbacks, on a surfaced area accessed by a driveway and inside a perimeter fence. The fence must serve as a screening device made from a solid type material.

If there are inoperable vehicles in your neighborhood contact, Terri Leone in Code Compliance (342-2341 Ext 221) and the property owner will be contacted regarding the violation.

Happy motoring and good luck with the bucket list!

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War Declared on Norovirus

Norovirus is a highly contagious virus that has brought mighty cruise ships to a halt and has sickened entire communities. The virus can be quickly spread from person to person, contaminated food or water, and by touching contaminated surfaces in public places. Just ask the residents of Henderson, Burke and other counties in North Carolina just how fast this virus can be spread. Last year communities in these North Carolina counties experienced seven Norovirus outbreaks. Some communities had to close schools and other public places for cleaning and disinfection of common touch surfaces. Norovirus is the most common cause of acute gastroenteritis in the U.S. causing more than 20 million illnesses each year with an estimated 50,000 hospitalizations. The illness can be very serious for young children and senior citizens. The virus causes acute diarrhea and severe vomiting.

Improper cleanup and disposal of vomit contaminated materials in public places, such as restaurants, is a major way the virus is spread. The virus does not grow and multiply in food. However, it only takes a few organisms on the surface of plates, utensils and common touch surfaces such as door handles or table tops to make you sick in just a few hours.

The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) recently revised the Model Food Code to require restaurants to have written procedures for the cleanup and disposal of vomit and to train employees in these procedures. The Centers for Disease Control (CDC) has developed posters showing how employees should cleanup and handle contaminated materials. The same procedures used in restaurants should also be used in other public places such as schools and theaters after a student or guest has vomited. These procedures can also be used by homeowners for cleaning up after a family member vomits to keep the virus from spreading to the entire family.

It is time to declare war on Norovirus before it invades our community. Following the CDC recommend cleanup procedures can help to prevent the virus from spreading through the entire community. Copies of the CDC poster are being provided to local food service establishments. A copy of this poster for use at home may be downloaded from the following Website: <http://foodsafesa.squarespace.com/norovirus/>

Clean-up and Disinfection for Norovirus ("Stomach Bug")

THESE DIRECTIONS SHOULD BE USED TO RESPOND TO ANY VOMITING OR DIARRHEA ACCIDENT
Note: Anything that has been in contact with vomit and diarrhea should be discarded or disinfected.

1 Clean up

- Remove vomit or diarrhea right away!**
 - Wearing protective clothing, such as disposable gloves, apron and/or mask, wipe up vomit or diarrhea with paper towels
 - Use kitty litter, baking soda or other absorbent material on carpets and upholstery to absorb liquid; do not vacuum material; pick up using paper towels
 - Dispose of paper towel/waste in a plastic trash bag or biohazard bag
- Use soapy water to wash surfaces that contacted vomit or diarrhea and all nearby high-touch surfaces, such as door knobs and toilet handles**
- Rinse thoroughly with plain water**
- Wipe dry with paper towels**

DON'T STOP HERE: GERMS CAN REMAIN ON SURFACES EVEN AFTER CLEANING!

2 Disinfect surfaces by applying a chlorine bleach solution

Steam cleaning may be preferable for carpets and upholstery. Chlorine bleach could permanently stain these.

a. Prepare a chlorine bleach solution

Make bleach solutions fresh daily; keep out of reach of children; never mix bleach solution with other cleaners

IF HARD SURFACES ARE AFFECTED...
 e.g., non-porous surfaces, vinyl, ceramic tile, sealed counter-tops, sinks, toilets

1/3 CUP BLEACH + 1 GALLON WATER
 CONCENTRATION ~1000 ppm

IF POROUS SURFACES ARE AFFECTED...
 e.g., wooden floors or unsealed concrete or natural stone surfaces

1 2/3 CUPS BLEACH + 1 GALLON WATER
 CONCENTRATION ~5000 ppm

- Air dry surfaces unlikely to have food or mouth contact**
 or...
- Rinse all surfaces intended for food or mouth contact with plain water before use**

3 Wash your hands thoroughly with soap and water

Hand sanitizers may not be effective against norovirus

Facts about Norovirus



Norovirus is the leading cause of outbreaks of diarrhea and vomiting in the US, and it spreads quickly.

Norovirus spreads by contact with an infected person or by touching a contaminated surface or eating contaminated food or drinking contaminated water. Norovirus particles can even float through the air and then settle on surfaces, spreading contamination.

Norovirus particles are extremely small and billions of them are in the stool and vomit of infected people.

Any vomit or diarrhea may contain norovirus and should be treated as though it does.

People can transfer norovirus to others for at least three days after being sick.

IF CLOTHING OR OTHER FABRICS ARE AFFECTED...

- Remove and wash all clothing or fabric that may have touched vomit or diarrhea

- Machine wash these items with detergent, hot water and bleach if recommended, choosing the longest wash cycle

- Machine dry



disinfect-for-health.org

Scientific experts from the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) helped to develop this poster. For more information on norovirus prevention, please see <http://www.cdc.gov/norovirus/preventing-infection.html>.



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Published and distributed by:

Neighborhood News, Inc.

3740 Colony Drive Suite 120

San Antonio, TX 78230

(210) 558-3160 * (210) 558-3163 fax

Info@NeighborhoodNews.com
www.NeighborhoodNews.com

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