

September 2014

# *The Castle Hills* Reporter



POLICE-COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS

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# Message From the Mayor



*Tim Howell  
Mayor*

We now are through what some are calling “the perfect storm”. In the past couple of months our city has gone through unprecedented turmoil and change. I for one am now looking forward to rolling up our sleeves and getting back to what we were elected to do – provide expert services, and good solid expertise and guidance to our department heads. By generating first-rate, positive ideas and planning carefully, we have been able to begin reclaiming our streets, and by the time you receive this letter, council will have passed and implemented a plethora of objectives designed to move us forward quickly on priorities such as the infrastructure for our streets and maintenance program.

I am proud of council's willingness to devote so much of their time and effort over the last months, and of the fortitude they've shown in pulling it all together and bringing a positive attitude back to the forefront. It's easy to get caught up in the “muck and mire” of political nay-saying, and hard to avoid a “can't do” attitude when there is change. But we are showing that it is indeed possible to overcome issues and rise above negativity.

I am also proud of the residents of our city, and the engagement that has been displayed through the many emails, letters, texts and phone calls I and the members of council have received. I have never seen such support and enthusiasm, and it is a reflection of where we can go if we all pull together and work on the common cause – our city. Your continued support of the city, department heads and staff is critical to realizing the successful exciting future that stands before us.

If you would like to stay informed and abreast of Castle Hills' exciting future, please email me at [timothyallanhowell@yahoo.com](mailto:timothyallanhowell@yahoo.com) and I will include you in my informational emails.

Timothy A Howell  
City of Castle Hills  
Mayor  
Castle Hills Texas

[timothyallanhowell@yahoo.com](mailto:timothyallanhowell@yahoo.com)  
[timothyallanhowell@gmail.com](mailto:timothyallanhowell@gmail.com)  
[timothyallanhowell@facebook.com](mailto:timothyallanhowell@facebook.com)  
[castlehillstimh@twitter.com](https://twitter.com/castlehillstimh)

## CITY COUNCIL

Tim Howell  
Mayor

Lesley Wenger  
Place 1

Matthew Daggett  
Place 2

John Squire  
Place 3, Mayor Por Tem

Frank Paul  
Place 4

Douglas Gregory  
Place 5

CITY STAFF  
(210) 342-2341

Diane Pfeil  
Interim 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

Architectoral 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

## Rejuvenation of Castle Hills

By Diane Pfeil, Interim City Manager

First of all, I would like to thank the Mayor and City Council for giving me the opportunity to serve the City of Castle Hills. My style of management has always been hands-on. I tend to roll up my sleeves and hit the ground running. I am encouraged by all of the city staff. We have so many hard working individuals and I am proud to say, I have discovered some hidden jewels among our staff. The productivity among our staff is second to none. You do not find people sitting around wasting time.

I have picked the word "rejuvenation" for this article. We are in the heat of summer but so many positive things are happening around our city. To define rejuvenation would be: to make young again, restore to youthful vigor, appearance, etc., to restore to a former state made fresh or new again, or give new vigor.

As I drive around and talk to folks, I am encouraged by the positive energy buzzing around the city. We all moved here for different reasons. One of the reasons I continually hear are the older homes with personality, and stately trees. As we all spruce up our

homes and rejuvenate them for the upcoming holidays I would like to remind you of a few things.

If you are having a garage sale, come on by city hall to get a permit. If you are cutting your trees, make sure you get a permit and paint those wounds. Oak wilt is moving towards us and we do not want to leave any limbs exposed to the fungus *Ceratocystis fagacearum*. Paint the wounds with a wound dressing or latex paint.

Our recycling program is also gaining popularity. As I drive through the neighborhoods on Wednesday and Thursday mornings I am encouraged by all the recycling containers. You can always purchase a blue container from the city or you can use a trash can and paint "recycle" on the can. It is so great to see the residents care so much about our environment.

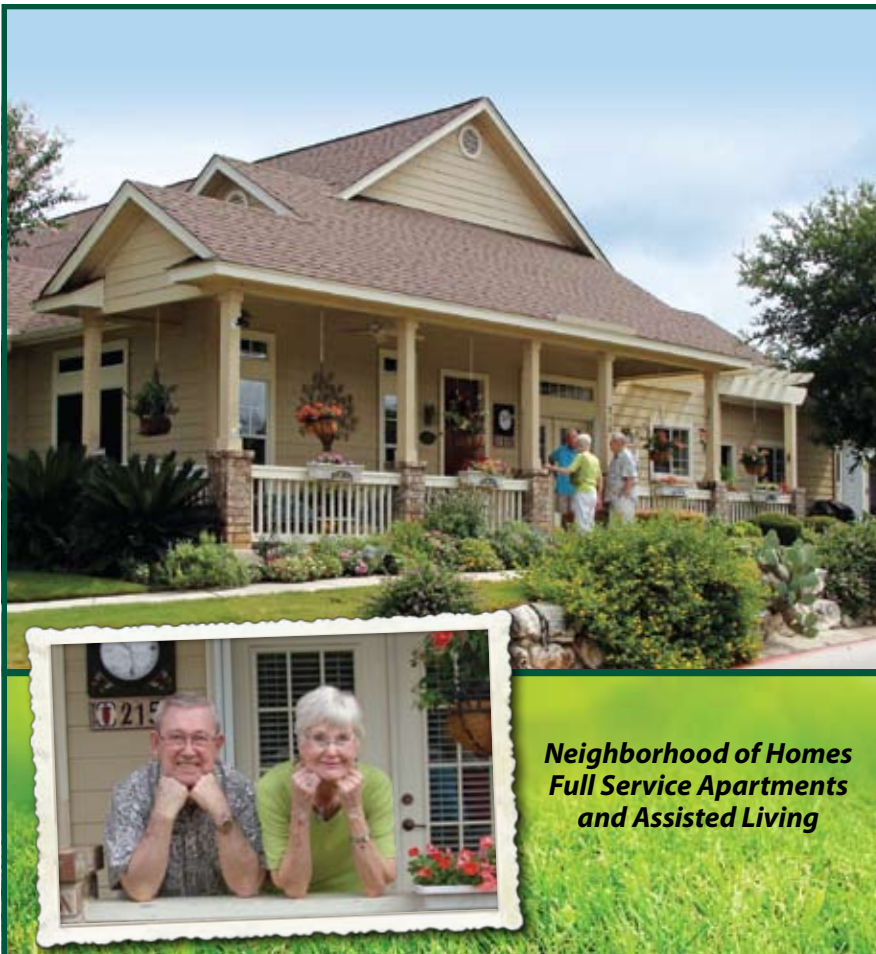
Our street maintenance projects are moving along. I know change is always painful but the end result is worth far more than the aggravation during the process. In a short period of time, more streets will be worked on to restore them or completely re-do the failing ones. If you ever have any questions about what is going on with any of these projects as we move forward please come by city hall

with your questions or concerns. And we all need to keep in mind that the end result will pay off in the future. Our city appearance will be restored to the youthfulness and vigor of so many years ago.

Along that line, we are working on a comprehensive Drainage Master Plan. It will be a thoughtful workable plan that will finally address our multitude of drainage issues. Monies are already set aside to start executing once we have a workable Drainage Master Plan.

I firmly believe that we have premium city services of which we can all be very proud. In meeting with the different city departments I am encouraged by their energy or vitality for providing services.

In closing, "I am honored and humbled to serve the city I so dearly love. I have a vested interest in this city and will do my best to deliver the quality services with the most efficiency our residents and businesses deserve. I will listen to the needs and concerns of the residents with an open mind. Come on by city hall and chat with me about your creative ideas on how we can move this city forward. Collectively, we can move mountains."



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Full Service Apartments  
and Assisted Living**

## Independence VILLAGE

RESORT STYLE HOMES  
FOR ACTIVE ADULTS 55+  
*at Stone Oak*



## Tour of Homes

Join us for champagne brunch and  
tour of our neighborhood of homes.

**Wednesday, September 24th, 2014**  
**10:00am - 12:00pm**

RSVP by Monday, September 22nd

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San Antonio, Texas 78258

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[www.independencevillage.com](http://www.independencevillage.com)

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# COUNCIL MEETING HIGHLIGHTS



## July 8 Special City Council Meeting

Conducted an Executive Session to Discuss the Resignation Letter and the Employment Status of the City Manager. Met with City Manager Rita Hoyl in Executive Session. Reconvened into open session. The City Council accepted the resignation of City Manager Rita Hoyl effective immediately.

## July 8 City Council Regular Meeting

- Appointed Timothy Allan Howell to serve as Mayor through May of 2015.
- Appointed Frank Paul to serve as Council Member Place 4 through May of 2015.
- Recognized Castle Hills Police Officers Jose Davila and Gary Reeves by Mothers Against Drunk Drivers.
- Announced the recognition of Castle Hills Police Officer of the Year, Sgt. Steve Hart, and Castle Hills Firefighter of the Year, Lt. Joe Hernandez by the San Antonio Northwest Rotary Club.
- Introduced Code Compliance / Enforcement Officer Luis Zamarron.
- Announced the Citywide Mosquito Spraying on Wednesday, July 9 and Wednesday, September 10, beginning at 10 p.m. each night.
- Announced Fiscal Year 2015 Budget Workshops scheduled for Monday, July 14, and Monday, July 28, 2014. The workshops will begin at 5:30 p.m.
- Received an update on the visit to the State Comptroller's Office by Council Members Squire and Wenger.
- Announced that there will be a Town Hall Meeting to View Presentations and to Conduct a Question and Answer Session Regarding Withdrawing from VIA and Options for Sales Tax Revenues as a Result of Withdrawing from VIA on Tuesday, July 15, 2014 at 6:30 p.m. in the Council Chambers.
- Received an Update on the Street Maintenance Implementation Plan.
- Approved the June 2014 Treasurer's Report.
- Approved the Minutes of the June 10, 2014 Regular City Council Meeting.
- Approved the Minutes of the June 19, 2014 Special City Council Meeting.
- Appointed Mr. Ron Wolma to full membership on the Board of Adjustment.
- Received an Update to the City Council's Request for a Final Report from ad-hoc Strategic Planning and Civic Participation Committees.
- Approved a Resolution Adopting the City's Investment Policy as required by Chapter 2256 of the Public Funds Investment Act, Section 2256.005. Investment Policies (e).
- Briefly discussed the 2014 Second Quarter Investment Report with direction to staff to bring back additional information prior to acknowledging receipt of the Report.
- Briefly discussed the Redesign of the City of Castle Hills website with direction to staff

for improvements to the website to improve communication, appearance, and function.

- Amended Special Fund # 01-8035, Public Works, Future Vehicles, in an amount not to exceed \$26,360 for the purchase of a pick-up truck for the Public Works Department with the direction to staff to ensure that the pricing is the best available pricing including checking with State of Texas purchasing resources.
- Engaged Attorney Ryan Henry and authorized the expenditure of \$5,000 for legal fees for the abatement at 113 Travertine.
- Conducted a Public Hearing and considered the recommendation of the Zoning Commission regarding an application for a special use permit to allow an accessory structure for storage to remain behind the main restaurant building, Santos Café, at 1005 Jackson Keller Road, zoned Commercial Use in the G – General Business District.

## July 10 Special City Council Meeting

Conducted an Executive Session to interview prospective City Attorney Firms.

## July 12 Special City Council Meeting

Conducted an Executive Session to discuss the duties and appointment an interim City Manager.

## July 15 Special Council Meeting

Met to formally accept the resignation of Place 2 City Council Member Stacia Spridgen effective July 9, 2014. Meeting scheduled, City Council unable to act due to lack of quorum.

## July 15 Special City Council Meeting

Conducted a Town Hall Meeting session to view presentations and to conduct a question-and-answer session regarding withdrawing from VIA and options for sales tax revenues as a result of withdrawing from VIA. Heard presentations by Ty Myrick, Economic Development Analyst, Local Government Section, Texas State Comptroller's Office, Presentation by VIA Metropolitan Transit, and an informal report by Councilman John Squire. Announced there would be additional town hall meeting sessions.

## July 17 Special City Council Meeting

Conducted an Executive Session to discuss the duties and appointment of an Interim City Manager. Conducted interviews with Interim City Manager candidates. Returned to open session and appointed Ms. Diane K. Pfeil as Interim City Manager for a period not to exceed 120 days.

## July 21 Special City Council Meeting

Formally accepted the resignation of Place 2 City Council Member Stacia Spridgen effective July 9, 2014.

Appointed Dr. Matthew F. Daggett to serve as Council Member Place 2 through May of 2015.

## July 21 Special City Council Meeting

Held the first Budget Workshop to hear presentations and discuss the preliminary Fiscal Year 2015 Budget for the City of Castle Hills.

## July 28 Special City Council Meeting

Met in Executive Session to interview a prospective City Attorney Firm. Authorized the Interim City Manager to obtain Employment Law Attorney services for the development of an Employment Policy Manual.

## July 28 Special City Council Meeting

Held the second Budget Workshop to hear presentations and discuss the preliminary Fiscal Year 2015 City Budget. Discussed a Proposed Tax Rate for the 2014 Tax Year for the City of Castle Hills.

## July 29 Special City Council Meeting

Conducted an Executive Session related to the settlement of severance benefits for the former city manager.

## July 29 Special City Council Meeting

Conducted interviews with prospective City Engineering Firms.

## July 31 Special City Council Meeting

Conducted interviews with prospective City Engineering Firms.

## August 12, 2014 Special City Council Meeting

Conducted an Executive Session related to the settlement of severance benefits for the former city manager. Reconvened into open session. The City Council approved the settlement of the severance claims of the former city manager.

## August 12, 2014 Regular City Council Meeting

- Introduced Migdalia "Miggy" Moneada, Police Dispatcher in Police Communications.
- Heard a presentation by San Antonio Police Department (SAPD) Commander, Special Investigations, for a commendation to Castle Hills Police Officer Jose Regalado, for his invaluable assistance in response to a BOLO (be on the lookout announcement) published by the SAPD regarding two suspects of an aggravated robbery. Police Officer Regalado set up staging, found the vehicle, and apprehended two suspects in connection with the aggravated robbery published on the BOLO.
- Heard a verbal interim report from Strategic Planning Committee Chair, Juan Solis, who updated the City Council on the progress of the various sub-committees and the overall progress of the larger Strategic Planning Committee. City Council was informed they

<<Council Meeting Highlights continued on pg. 7

## EMPLOYEE HIGHLIGHTS

### Anniversaries

#### 35-Years

Gerald Riedel, Fire Department

#### 1-Year

David Fawcett, Police Department

Richard Hayduk, Police Department

### New Employees

Diane Pfeil, Interim City Manager

Migdalia Moncada, Dispatch

## Friday Movie Night at the Commons

Friday Movie Night  
At the Common

Presented by the  
Castle Hills Community Organization  
September 19th

Movie Nights start at dusk. In the event of  
excessive heat or rain,  
Movie Night is held in the council chambers.

## Castle Hills Community Organization Events

Safety Awareness Event  
Thursday, October 2, 2014  
7:00 p.m. in the Community Room

Halloween Party  
Saturday, October 25, 2014  
Council Chambers September 19th

## EYES OF SAN ANTONIO

*Dr. Robert S. Thompson*

Therapeutic Optometrist

1009 NW Loop 410 • San Antonio, TX

*Dr. Thompson has practiced for  
39 years. Graduated with honors from the  
University of Houston College of Optometry.*

**During the month of September, we are  
offering a FREE seminar on Lasik Vision Correction.**

**Guest Speaker is National Renowned  
Gregory D. Parkhurst, M.D.**

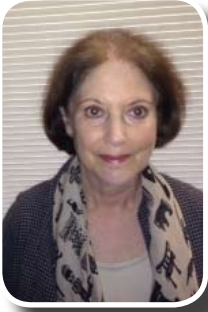
- Board Certified Ophthalmologist - Parkhurst NuVision
- Fellowship Trained Corneal Specialist
- Former Chief of Ophthalmology and Refractive Surgery at the World's Largest Military Base
- Has performed over 10,000 successful ocular procedures including Lasik, PRK, ICL and Cataract Surgery and more.

**Call our office for more information:**

**210.366.1021**



# Council Comments



*Lesley Wenger*  
**Place 1**

Many of you have asked me why I did not write an article for the July issue of the Castle Hills Reporter. First I had nothing relevant to report by the deadline and second, because of the long delay between the deadline and receipt, the information is not timely. We were asked to submit our articles by June 5th. The

Reporter did not arrive in our mailboxes until mid-July. By that time the Mayor resigned, followed by the resignation of the City Manager and a Councilmember.

For those who are on my e-mail list, you have been receiving up dates as they occur:

- May 30: Invitation from the Express-News for their debate on Streetcars at UTSA
- June 6: A preview of Douglas Gregory's column for the Reporter
- June 11: A copy of the Express-News article on the Mayor's resignation
- June 28: Street Maintenance – list of 41 streets to receive pavement restoration
- July 11: Reminder of the 1st Town Hall Meeting on VIA
- July 18: Appointment of the Interim City Manager, Diane Pfeil
- July 24: Changes in City Council - the new Mayor and two new Councilmembers
- August 3: Reminder from City on start dates of pavement restoration project

If you are not yet on my list and would like to get timely information, please call me with your e-mail address at 377-3636. All e-mails are addressed to Castle Hills Residents and are blind-copied.



*Matthew Daggett,*  
**Place 2**

As I am writing this, the August summer heat is upon us and our yards are showing it. Although we look forward to future rain we can only hope and pray it will not flood our city as it did last year. The lack of a master flood plan is one of our primary deficiencies that our

city needs to address. This plan needs to be in place before any major street projects are initiated. I look forward to working with council, city staff and our engineers to address our infrastructure needs that best serve our city. This will involve bold decisions on our budget and planning process.

As many of you have noticed, the Reclamite process has started and a number of our streets have been completed. This will enable us to maintain our better streets for a longer

service life, so we can invest more resources into our more deteriorated streets first. In the coming months you will notice work beginning on some of these major street projects.

I would be happy to hear from you if you have questions or concerns. I am excited that our city is moving forward. Have a great rest of the summer.

I can be reached at [mdaggett@cityofcastlehills.com](mailto:mdaggett@cityofcastlehills.com) or (210)849-6209



*John Squire,*  
**PLACE 3**

As you receive this newsletter one of the first projects for the maintenance of our streets will be completed. The pavement rejuvenation treatment was applied to the majority of our streets to help extend their useful service life. I offer my sincere thanks to the "Public Works Street Team"

for their long hours and hard effort that they have all been putting in to get the street maintenance program up and running. Also, as you drive around our city, please take note of the some of the areas in which existing pavement that has failed is being replaced and crack sealing is being performed. Our Public Works Department is performing some of this directly and additionally managing local contractors to perform the larger jobs.

In the August City Council meeting up to One Million Dollars was approved for our Public Works Department to continue our street maintenance activities. These funds will now allow additional and more extensive street repairs to take place across the City.

Additionally, up to Three Hundred Thousand Dollars was approved to start tackling the long term challenge of addressing the storm water drainage issues that we have been dealing with for many years. One of the first items that I hope will be developed is a comprehensive city wide Drainage Master Plan. This plan is needed to give us a specific roadmap to help us address this complex and long term challenge.

As always, I am available to discuss our City's issues and encourage you to keep in touch. I can be reached at:

- email address – [jsquire@cityofcastlehills.com](mailto:jsquire@cityofcastlehills.com) or
- phone – 210-390-4611

Respectfully,  
John Squire

*Council Comments Continued on Page 7>>*



## &lt;&lt;Council Comments Continued From Page 6



*Frank Paul,*  
**PLACE 4**

I was appointed to council July 8th. In my first 4 weeks in office, I attended ten council sessions and one Texas Municipal League seminar. So there has been much to keep me busy. I understand after the budget is approved, the city attorney and city engineer are selected, that the meetings will get back to normal. I look forward to that time. The council is continuing to work hard to bring many things into focus. I plan on having more to say in the next magazine and/or the following.

Castle Hills is YOUR community. As such, everyone should want to be involved in one way or another. If nothing else, attend the council meetings. Do not wait until election time to get involved. Stay up with the facts all year long.

GET INVOLVED, STAY INFORMED!

Please do not hesitate to contact me with any questions or comments at [fpaul@cityofcastlehills.com](mailto:fpaul@cityofcastlehills.com)



*Douglas Gregory,*  
**PLACE 5**

In my last column I wrote that Castle Hills must be run like a business with the City Council as the Board of Directors and you, the residents, shareholders. One of the most important aspects of running a business is to insure when funds are spent, each dollar must be stretched to maximum effectiveness. With this in mind, each outlay should be scrutinized through the process of cost/benefit analysis.

Cost/benefit analysis is a methodology used to try to insure that when money is spent on a project or personnel, the cost is economically justifiable. Unlike the Federal Government which spends money it does not have, City funds are limited to what the tax base can produce. If taken seriously, the casual way tax money has been handled over the recent past can be corrected.

A strong asset of our City is the people who work for us. Only the most competent should work here and how they use their time is another area that cost/benefit analysis can come into play. Remember, making our tax dollars work to the fullest is our goal; achieving excellent productivity from those who are the backbone of our work force is a must.

During the next few months, up to 1 million dollars will be spent on street and drainage work. This is the beginning of a thoughtful multi-year infrastructure repair program. Castle Hills is moving in a different and better direction. We are all shareholders in a positive outcome of these needed reforms. What has begun will pay noticeable dividends in our future.

## &lt;&lt;Council Meeting Highlights continued from pg. 4

- may expect a formal final report at their October 2014 City Council Meeting.
- Citizens to be Heard. Heard from a number of residents who expressed concerns regarding the gabion wall in the drainage channel adjacent to the Pape-Dawson property.
- Approved the July 2014 Treasurers Report.
- Approved a Schedule for the Fiscal Year 2014 Tax Levy and Fiscal Year 2015 Budget Adoption Process:
  - o 1st & 2nd Public Hearings for the Fiscal Year 2014 Tax Levy on August 28 and September 16 at 6:30 p.m. on both dates.
  - o Scheduled Public Hearings for the Proposed Fiscal Year 2015 Budget on August 28 and September 16 at 6:30 p.m. on both dates.
  - o Consider the Adoption of the Fiscal Year 2015 City of Castle Hills Budget at a Special City Council Meeting to be held on Monday, September 29 at 5:30 p.m.
  - o Ordered the Draft Proposed Fiscal Year 2015 City of Castle Hills Budget to be filed with the City Secretary and made available for taxpayer inspection for 30 days.
- Moved the Regular City Council Meeting of September 9, 2014 to Monday, September 8, 2014, by minute order, to accommodate anticipated absences by Mayor Tim Howell and Council Member Matthew Daggett.
- Authorized the Interim City Manager to obtain requests for proposals for the City Hall campus repairs including replacement of the City Hall building roof, installation of insulation for the City Hall building roof and any services required to determine the extent of the damages.
- Authorized the Interim City Manager to obtain requests for bids for the City Hall parking lot repairs.
- Accepted the proposal from Employment Law Attorney Michael Holland for the development of an Employment Policy Manual.
- Considered the City Manager's proposal for the adoption of a tax rate of \$0.51345 per \$100 valuation for the City of Castle Hills for Tax Year 2014 by unanimous record vote of the City Council to meet the requirements of the Truth-in-Taxation guidelines and prepare for the Public Hearings previously authorized to be scheduled.
- Considered and authorized a Special City Council Meeting to be held on Monday, September 29, 2014 at 5:30 p.m. to adopt a tax rate of \$0.50345 / \$100 for the City of Castle Hills for Tax Year 2014.
- Received the 2014 Second Quarter Investment Report.
- Authorized the Interim City Manager to negotiate contracts for services with three engineering firms for use on a project-by-project basis according to their specific specialties: Genuine Maverick Engineers, Klotz Associates, and LNV.
- Reappointed Michael Brenan, Brenan Law, as city attorney.
- Appointed Arthur J. Gallagher as the City's Insurance Agent of Record.
- Appointed Jack Joyce, architect, as Chairman of the Architectural Review Committee to fill the vacancy left with the appointment of Dr. Matthew F. Daggett to the City Council.
- Appointed the following as board members to the Castle Hills Crime Control and Prevention District: William Beuhler, Nick Daines, and Steve McGuire to serve two-year terms until 2016, beginning September 2014. Appointed George Booth to serve as a board member to the Castle Hills Crime Control and Prevention District: George Booth, to serve the remaining one-year term until September 2015, resulting from the vacancy left by the appointment of Jack Joyce to the Architectural Review Committee.
- Voted to allocate up to \$1 Million for Street Repair and Street Projects to be determined by the City Council within 60 days.
- Voted to allocate up to \$300,000 for Drainage Maintenance and Repairs.
- Received an updated on the Street Maintenance Implementation Plan.
- Discussed Sanitation Department Program changes and allocation of funds arising from program changes.
- Received updates from the July 8, 2014 City Council Meeting regarding:
  - o The City's Investment Policy;
  - o The 2014 Second Quarter Investment Report;
  - o The Redesign of the City of Castle Hills Website;
  - o The Purchase of a Pick-up Truck for the Public Works Department.

# Back To School and National Night Out

Greetings citizens,

It's that time again, summer has come and gone and another school season is here. For the most part we had a safe summer and are looking forward to the cooler nights that come with the fall, which is around the corner. National Night Out is fast approaching and is scheduled for Tuesday October 7, 2014. Save this date and get with your neighbors and consider hosting a block party. Last year we had 7 block parties and this year we are looking to have more. If you would like to host a block party please register at <http://natw.org/registration/> If you have any questions please contact Castle Hills Police Captain Johnny Siemens.

On another note, please remember to interact with your neighbors and keep an eye out for one another. If you see anything suspicious please give us a call and let us know. It is not up to the police to determine what is suspicious it is up to you, the caller. The dispatcher will likely ask if you would like to leave your contact information and / or if you would like to be contacted. We do try to gather witness information as it can be very important depending on the circumstances, but we also understand you may not want to get involved. It is understandable and as a caller you do not have to leave your information, you can simply request to remain anonymous.

Wayne Davis  
Chief, Castle Hills PD

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## CITY ORDINANCE - PLEASE MAINTAIN YOUR ALLEYS!



Sanitation worker must lean to the side of the trash truck to avoid being hit by trees in the alley.

Public Works would like to remind you to please trim the trees and bushes in your alley. This time of year the trees and bushes are growing rapidly, and regular maintenance is critical to ensure fast and efficient trash pickup. When the vegetation is overgrown, the trash trucks have a hard time getting through the alleys, and the visibility for the workers is very limited. The overgrowth slows down the garbage route pickup and has caused some of the following accidents:

- workers hit and/or knocked off the trucks
- eye injuries from tree limbs/branches
- broken truck mirrors
- scratched and dented vehicle doors and panels

We ask that you will do your part to keep the trees, bushes, and weeds trimmed back in the alleys, per the Castle Hills City Ordinance: *Sec. 26-120. "It shall be unlawful for both the owner and the tenant of any property in the city abutting upon a public alley or way to permit any weeds, grasses, or other vegetation whatsoever to grow therein to the center line to a height of greater than five inches."*

Public Works is proud to serve the residents of Castle Hills, and we appreciate your help in keeping our crews safe and our garbage services running efficiently. Thank you, and we wish you a happy Fall Season.

Article submitted by Public Works



RENEE'S CPS ENERGY  
ATTIC INSULATION  
\$500 REBATE HELPED  
HER SAVE BIG.  
AND SMILE A LOT.



**Start saving with Rebates  
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*works for you*

[cpsenergysavers.com](http://cpsenergysavers.com)

# YOUR COMMUNITY



Officer Jose Regalado was presented a commendation by San Antonio Police Department for his assistance in the apprehension of two suspects involved in an aggravated robbery in San Antonio. Pictured (L-R) Officer Jose Regalado, Captain Anderson, Commander of the SAPD Special Investigation Unit and Mayor Howell.



Diane Pfeil, Interim City Manager started her duties with the City on July 18, 2014.



Migdalia Moneade, Police Department Dispatcher was introduced at the August 12 City Council meeting by Chief Davis and Mayor Howell. Migdalia will join the ranks of the Castle Hills dispatchers answering 911 and informational calls, dispatching police and fire units, assisting citizens who walk-in to the police department, and numerous other duties.



City Secretary, Janie Willman administered the Oath of Office to Interim City Manager, Diane Pfeil on July 18, 2014 in city council chambers.

## Castle Hills Community Organization (CHCO)

By John Strieb, President

As I write this article, our next Family Movie Night is scheduled for this coming Friday, August 15. It appears that the weather will hold and we can have our first outdoor movie in the Castle Hills Common this summer.

We scheduled one for June specially to have it outdoors, but it was rained out. We cancelled it as it was not on the original schedule and we especially wanted it shown outdoors. In the movie night announcements for the June movie, I accidentally stated that we were to have snakes instead of snacks so that was not a big draw! Diane Pfeil did say that rattlesnake was good eating but we did not get to enjoy a rattlesnake treat as the rain washed us out.

Family Movie Night for July was held in Council Chambers and not in the Common due to rain and the saturated ground. Harry Potter: Prisoner of Azkaban, was shown and seemed to keep everyone's attention despite some technical difficulties which allowed for snack intermissions. Valarie Wosnig, Joyce Buie's granddaughter, came to our rescue to fix the problems. Thank God our youth know their way around electronics! Thanks again to our Fire Department for setting up the screen and projector which by the way, had nothing to do with the technical problems we experienced. Our next Family Movie Night is Friday, September 19.

We prefer to have the movies shown in the Common, but we embrace any rain which is so desperately needed. The greener Castle Hills is the better – green lawns and blooming flowers, shrubs, and trees make for a more beautiful Castle Hills.

October will be upon us in no time which means our annual Safety Awareness Event in conjunction with National Night Out on Thursday, October 2nd, and another community Halloween party on Saturday, October 25th. We look forward to seeing all the residents participate in these great community events.

As I stated in prior articles, NextDoor, a local social media website, is one of our organization's means of communication. If you would like to join, please let me know at [jfs@prodigy.net](mailto:jfs@prodigy.net). I will extend an invitation for you to join. NextDoor is a means by which the Castle Hills community as a whole can communicate with each other and is just one of the mediums CHCO uses to get the word out about community events and activities.

I also want to thank the City for space in the "The Castle Hills Reporter" for our articles and thanks goes to Janet Thelen for editing skills that keep me out of trouble. Janie Willman, City Secretary, has been great is getting the word out to city staff on our activities. Also to our City Manager, Diane Pfeil for letting all this happen.



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## Castle Hills Fire Department

A recent fire in a residence here in Castle Hills was a great reminder of the importance of smoke detectors in the home. Below, are a few guidelines from the NFPA on smoke detector installation!

- Choose smoke alarms that have the label of a recognized testing laboratory.
- Install smoke alarms inside each bedroom, outside each sleeping area and on every level of the home, including the basement.
- On levels without bedrooms, install alarms in the living room (or den or family room) or near the stairway to the upper level, or in both locations.
- Smoke alarms installed in the basement should be installed on the ceiling at the bottom of the stairs leading to the next level.
- Smoke alarms should be installed at least 10 feet (3 meters) from a cooking appliance to minimize false alarms when cooking.
- Mount smoke alarms high on walls or ceilings (remember, smoke rises). Wall-mounted alarms should be installed not more than 12 inches away from the ceiling (to the top of the alarm).
- If you have ceilings that are pitched, install the alarm within 3 feet of the peak but not within the apex of the peak (four inches down from the peak).

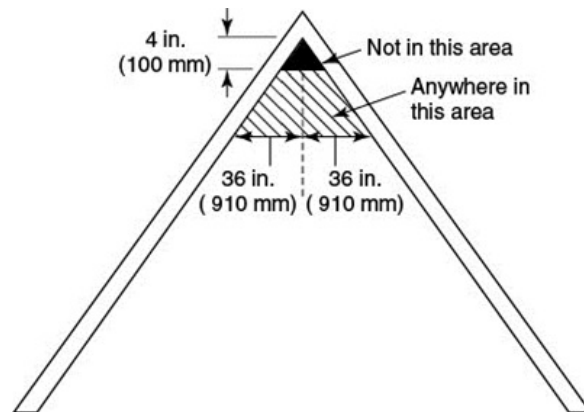


Figure A.29.8.3.1 from NFPA 72, National Fire Alarm and Signaling Code (2013 edition).

- Don't install smoke alarms near windows, doors, or ducts where drafts might interfere with their operation.
- Never paint smoke alarms. Paint, stickers, or other decorations could keep the alarms from working.
- For the best protection, interconnect all smoke alarms. When one smoke alarm sounds they all sound. Interconnection can be done using hard-wiring or wireless technology.
- When interconnected smoke alarms are installed, it is important that all of the alarms are from the same manufacturer. If the alarms are not compatible, they may not sound.
- There are two types of smoke alarms – ionization and photoelectric. An ionization smoke alarm is generally more responsive to flaming fires, and a photoelectric smoke alarm is generally more responsive to smoldering fires. For the best protection, both types of alarms or combination ionization-photoelectric alarms, also known as dual sensor smoke alarms, are recommended.
- Keep manufacturer's instructions for reference.
- If you are unsure of location or installation please feel free to call the fire department at 210-342-2341 and we will be glad to assist you....The Life You Save May Be Yours!!

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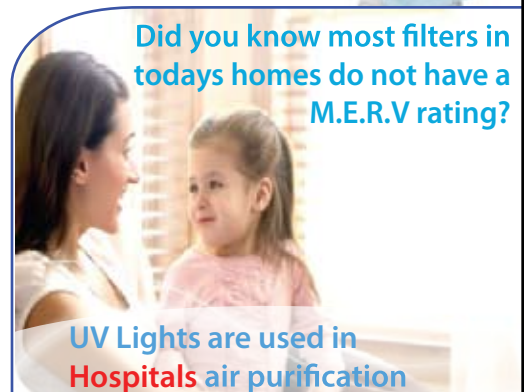
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## DISPOSING OF LEAVES AND OTHER LANDSCAPING MATERIALS



Although the thermometer may make it feel like we're still in July, autumn is approaching. With the mercifully cooler weather comes the inevitable falling of (tons!) leaves. Here's a reminder on what a resident can do to dispose of the mini-Mt. Everest of leaves that you will be spending your weekends raking up. The City can collect up to ten (10) 30-gallon lawn bags of leaves at a time. This pick-up occurs on the first day of your trash collection week. If your trash gets picked up on Tuesdays and Fridays, your leaves will be picked up on Tuesday. But what if you have more than 10 - 30-gallon bags of leaves? Simply "meter" out the disposal and set out 10 bags at a time, over the course of however many weeks it will take to dispose of all your bags. From a Code Compliance stand point, please remember the following: Store the overage of bags out of public view, for example, in a fenced-in backyard, a garage, a storage shed, etc., note that leaves will not be picked up on brush collection days (only garbage days and remember that if there are more than 10 bags set-out at curbside, NO bags will be collected and a violation may occur.

As for limbs, branches etc., remember that a permit is required when trimming trees. These permits are available at City Hall. You can dispose of trimmings in this manner; you may fill up to 3-30 gallon trash cans (or the equivalent) with materials as long as the items are less than 5' long and/

or less than 3" in diameter. The pick-up day for these items is every Wednesday except during weeks in which a city holiday is observed. If you want more than the maximum amount picked up, you may call Public Works for a cost estimate, or of course, you may arrange for a private haul-away service to remove the items.

Note that the same Code Compliance points apply to excessive brush; please do not store excessive brush in public view, brush will not be picked up on garbage days and if more than the 3-30 gallon (or equivalent) amount is left curbside, no brush will be collected and a violation may occur.

As a reminder, the Castle Hills Code of Ordinances also states that "Garbage containers shall not be placed curbside or in the right-of-way for collection earlier than 6:00 p.m. the day before collection day." And "after a garbage container has been emptied by the city it shall be removed from the right-of-way of a street at the earliest possible time on the same day of collection and returned to an area of storage on private property not readily visible from the street."

Enjoy the cooler weather...when it decides to show up!

Submitted by Luis Zamarron-Code Compliance.



**You're Invited to the**  
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## What Scares You the Most?

Do you get scared when you hear reports on the evening news about Dengue, West Nile Virus (WNV), Chikungunya (pronounced: chik-en-gun-ye) and other diseases caused by viruses? All three have several things in common; all three can be found in Texas; all three can be transmitted by the bite of an infected mosquito; and all three can be easily prevented by following a few simple precautions.

After a rain just about anything that can hold water for a few days can become an instance breeding place for mosquitoes. This includes roof gutters, flower pots, old tires, coffee cans, unattended swimming pools and even tree stumps.

If you have a pool that is no longer being maintained for swimming you need to use commercial mosquito control tablets or natural controls such as frogs, tadpoles and fish such as *Gambusia affinis* (Mosquito Fish). If you have a birdbath be sure to change the water at least every other day. Keep your roof gutters clean and make sure they are properly draining.

Other things you can do to reduce mosquito biting is get rid of any outside container capable of holding water. Wheelbarrows and old tires are a special concern. You can also drill holes in the bottom of containers to allow water to flow out or turn over those items that are not in use. Flower

pots with a water base provide an ideal breeding habitat for mosquitoes. When you are outdoors, especially at dawn and dusk, use a commercial insect repellent.

These simple precautions appear to be working. As of July 25, only a few individuals with Dengue and Chikungunya had been reported in Texas and all of these cases had been imported by vacationers returning from the Caribbean. Only nine cases of WNV had been reported, which is a significant decrease from recent years. You should be concerned about these mosquito-borne diseases, but no need to panic or be scared.

If you want to get scared keep reading. It is estimated that an average of 36,000 flu-associated deaths occur each year during flu season. During this year's flu season, which starts in October, it is expected that about 20% of the population will become infected with up 114,000 hospitalized and 25,000 to 40,000 deaths.

The elderly and very young are considered as being at high risk of flu complications when not vaccinated. With flu vaccinations available at local pharmacies there is no excuse for not getting your flu shot for this season. If you haven't got your flu shot yet, get scared and stay scared until you do.

Submitted by Homer Emery, R.S.

## Drug Drop Off

On Saturday, September 27, 2014 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Castle Hills Fire Department located at 209 Lemonwood, Castle Hills, Texas citizens can drop-off old or unused over the counter and prescription drugs and medications. Saturday Sept 27, 2014 from 10 am - 2 pm @ the CH Fire Dept 209 Lemonwood, Castle Hills, TX.

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