

July 2016



The Castle Hills

# Reporter



**2<sup>nd</sup> Annual  
Back to School Picnic  
with the Mayor**  
Saturday, August 27<sup>th</sup>  
10:00 a.m.  
The Commons  
209 Lemonwood

**School Safety  
Awareness**



**Child  
Safety Booth**

**Free Food  
Provided by:**



**Games**

**Mini Bicycle  
Clinic**

**Waterslide**



**Guest Appearances by: Sparky the Fire Dog, Ironman & others**

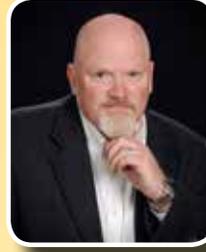
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# Message From the Mayor



*Tim Howell  
Mayor*

Driving around Castle Hills, I see fresh faces. Some are new buildings seemingly growing right up from the ground. The Pollo Tropical is a welcomed new restaurant. The medical offices and office space at the corner of NW Loop 410 and West Avenue is adding new services for our residents, and the Bank of San Antonio completes the combined campus with Pape Dawson Engineers. The Castle Hills Plaza Shopping Center with their magnificent new façade and the remodeling and expansion at the long vacant building at 1015 Jackson Keller brings fresh new looks to our community.

In the neighborhoods, homes are getting new roofs, windows, and a fresh coat of paint due to the unfortunate consequences of the spring hail storms. This catalyst pushed many residents to spruce up their exteriors. Additionally, homes are selling at a near frenetic pace in Castle Hills due to our premium location, small town atmosphere and great schools. New residents are the fresh new faces we meet as individuals and families call Castle Hills home.

Change is often a point of contention, but change can bring a fresh start, a new look or repurposing of an existing structure or property. Change that is thoughtful, improves the quality of the space, and when well planned can allay the fears associated with change. The city addresses these issues through:

- Building codes and inspections to help ensure safe structures are built;
- Zoning regulations to create order, control density of structures and populations, and protect public health, safety and welfare;
- Board of Adjustment as a relief mechanism to deal with unique conditions; and
- Public notices and public hearings to keep citizens informed and allow for free speech.

The new construction, building upgrades, and the sale of properties all help to maintain the quality of life in our city, protect the value of your property, and grow property taxes. We all cringe and conjure up negative connotations when taxes are mentioned, but taxes fund services. Police, fire, and animal control are all examples funded through taxes.

The council is in the middle of planning the 2017 city budget. New commercial and residential structures built in 2015 added \$10,306,070 in new taxable value. Your property taxes may have gone up this year, which again generates angst among tax payers, but the county assesses taxes based on those impressive resale prices for homes that have sold in Castle Hills. Remember, when our time comes to sell, we too will enjoy the increase in our property values and not a loss that is felt in stagnant decaying communities. Sales tax collections have consistently trended upward and 2016 is on track to continue. I encourage you to shop locally whenever possible to spend your dollars to fund your city.

The council and city staff are mindful of the source of the monies in the city coffers and strive to be good stewards. I encourage you to visit the city website for budget meetings and workshops dates. Take a moment and stop by a meeting to learn more about the setting of the budget or to share your thoughts.

The recent Fourth of July celebrations have me thinking of our freedoms and independence. John Adams, the second President of the United States once wrote "All men are born free and independent, and have certain natural, essential, and unalienable rights, among which may be reckoned the right of enjoying and defending their lives and liberties; that of acquiring, possessing, and protecting property; in fine, that of seeking and obtaining their safety and happiness." What inspiring words that define our past and hopefully guide our future.

**Timothy A Howell**  
Mayor City of Castle Hills Texas  
210-535-9094  
Mayortimhowell@gmail.com

## CITY COUNCIL

Tim Howell  
Mayor

JR Treviño  
Place 1

Matthew Daggett  
Place 2

John Squire  
Place 3, Mayor Pro Tem

Frank Paul  
Place 4

Douglas Gregory  
Place 5, Treasurer

CITY STAFF  
(210) 342-2341

Diane Pfeil  
City Manager, ext. 214

Kymberlee Buntyn  
City Secretary, ext. 216

Suzanne Riley  
Finance, ext. 224

Jerry Riedel  
Fire Department Chief, ext. 217

Wayne Davis  
Police Department Chief, ext. 210

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

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Non-emergency (210) 342-2341

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

City Council  
2nd Tuesday, 6:30pm

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

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

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

Crime Control & Prevention District  
3rd Monday, 5:30pm  
As Needed



# EVER CHANGING LANDSCAPES

By Diane Pfeil, City Manager

The spring storms have certainly added issues to our day to day lives. Meeting with insurance adjusters, roofers and repair companies were not on most of our personal agendas a few months ago. Some of your homes have been re-roofed and the event is becoming a distant memory. For others, who lost trees or had trees severely damaged, your landscape is changed for many years. Open sky is now visible where once a tree canopy shaded your yard or residence. I guess if there is a silver lining to the spring storms, we are officially out of the drought and vegetation is growing strong.

With this prolific plant growth please check your tree canopies to ensure that the clearance over roadways is 12 feet (especially when vegetation is weighed down with rain). The clearance is necessary for street maintenance equipment, fire trucks and delivery vehicles to safely travel the streets.

The alley behind your residence also needs to be part of your routine lawn maintenance. When vegetation grows into the alley, the city sanitation trucks are damaged. Unfortunately, public works employees have been injured by branches that hit them while on the sanitation trucks. All living things need care and our landscape and our city employees are included.

The need to make storm repairs to structures and landscapes serves as a needed facelift. Castle Hills is over 60 years old and some things were beginning to look worn out and tired. Now properties are looking improved and new again. Momentum is building in Castle Hills. Improvements are not just in the neighborhoods. Our streets and the drainage issues in Castle Hills are getting the needed attention that is long overdue. I spoke of the importance of relationships in the May newsletter. Our relationship with VIA will continue now that the voters approved continuing VIA services in Castle Hills. VIA will now make needed street improvements at the bus stops which helps with maintenance of our city streets.

The Master Drainage Plan was approved by the City Council at the June council meeting. This is the roadmap by which we can systematically correct many of our drainage issues. Unfortunately, the cost estimates for the projects are very large. How will the city ever fund all these projects? Well it reminds me of the old question of "How do you eat an elephant? One bite at a time!" Castle Hills is not alone in tackling the drainage problems. We are partnering with

Bexar County and FEMA to develop a Hazardous Mitigation Plan. The purpose of the plan is to eliminate long-term risks to human life and property from known hazards through effective mitigation. There is even funding possibilities with FEMA approved projects. Having the Master Drainage Plan means Castle Hills is in the starting gate for mitigation efforts. Relationships and momentum!

The Loop 410 and West Avenue area seems to be riding the momentum with new developments and upgrades. HEB is in the final preparations for the replacement of the fuel kiosk at the West Avenue store, and the surrounding new businesses really changed the landscape of the area. It is exciting to see our community thrive. Momentum!

Our Public Works staff is out in full force making the smaller needed street repairs. The joint sewer and street repair projects are on schedule despite the wet spring weather. Thank you to all the citizens who have shown tremendous patience during your street repairs. I hope that those who have expressed concerns about the projects have found city staff responsive in assisting you with your questions and needs. SAWS is replacing the sewer line on my street, so I am faced with the same construction issues that many of you have or will incur as these projects proceed. I encourage you to periodically check the city website, Public Works home page for street repair updates and the street repair schedule. If you have any questions please feel free to contact me.

Maybe our landscapes will receive quenching rains in late July and August to aid the trees and lawns in drought recovery. I hope to see the wave of momentum continue across our wonderful city keeping us a vibrant place to live, work, and play. The staff here at city hall wish you a safe and wonderful summer.

*A special thanks to resident John Kenny for the front cover design of the Reporter.*

## Suzette Strong

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# Council Comments



*JR Treviño,*  
**Place 1**

Friends,

First off I would like to thank you for giving me the opportunity to serve you. I am eager to work for you and our community to make it an even better place. It is a wonderful time to be a part of the City of Castle Hills. We are poised for a great deal of organic growth. I say organic because I believe that it is crucial that Castle Hills still keep the small town feel. We are fortunate to have countless businesses, homeowners, and visitors that are investing in Castle Hills. In my campaign I stressed the importance of strategic economic development; development that would help fund much needed capital improvement projects. It's no secret that our streets and drainage desperately need attention. Rest assured that city administration, the Mayor, and Council are working to address this issue from numerous angles.

In this last couple of months, I have had the privilege of meeting many residents and business owners and I must say, I am excited! We have an incredibly diverse and talented group of people in our community. I would like to thank everyone that has pledged their skills, talents, and resources to help our City. No amount of help is too small, together we can accomplish more. I for one have hit the ground running. By the time you read this I will have attended my first budget workshop, completed the first part of my state required training, and I will attend my second part of training at the end of July.

If you have ideas about improving our great City please feel free to email me or call me. I would greatly appreciate an opportunity to sit down to learn about your life in Castle Hills. I look forward to seeing you at our next Concert in the Commons!

Yours in service,  
JR Treviño  
City Council, Place 1  
JTrevino@CityofCastleHills.com  
210-559-5940



*Matthew Daggett,*  
**Place 2**

It is time once again for council to start budget discussions and workshops for the coming year. How are tax rates set, what factors are considered and how does all this come together as the city budget? Property taxes and sales taxes are the source of most municipal revenue. The average value of homes, the amount of commercial property, the sales tax revenue, debt owed by the municipality, infrastructure expansion and/or maintenance needs all impact the setting of the tax rates and the final numbers for the budget. The table below provides you a comparison of tax rates and home values.

City	Tax Rate per \$10	Average Residence Value
Hill Country Village	\$0.145000	\$684,367
Shavano Park	\$0.287742	\$578,174
Windcrest	\$0.33410	\$163,718
<b>Castle Hills</b>	<b>\$0.501345</b>	<b>\$220,352</b>
Hollywood Park	\$0.510081	\$269,946
Balcones Heights	\$0.539300	\$80,812
San Antonio	\$0.558270	\$135,611

Because our city is mainly residential, it requires that our property tax rate be higher to supplement what many cities get from sales tax. As of June 2016, Castle Hills collected \$637,151.12 in sales tax revenue. Windcrest has collected \$2,698,127.87. The reason for the large difference is the large commercial districts in Windcrest.

We choose to live in Castle Hills because of the mainly residential make-up of our city, but there is a cost for this demographic. I encourage you to support our local businesses. Try a new restaurant or business in our city that you may have not been to before or visited in a while. As a member of council, I keep in mind that economic development in our city can occur, but it must be done responsibly and respectfully.

I hope everyone has a wonderful and safe summer. Call me with any ideas and questions at 210.849.6209 or email: mdaggett@cityofcastlehills.com

Thanks,

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

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*"The statements and facts contained in newsletter articles from the Mayor and City Council Members are their own personal views and should not be considered official city sponsored statements or facts and should not be relied upon as such."*



*John Squire,*  
**PLACE 3**

It's been a busy year for the first half of 2016! We as a city continue to work through the largest sewer/water and street repair infrastructure project that our city has undertaken in many years. Significant progress has been made to date and as you receive this newsletter several of these projects/streets will have been completed. There will still be inconveniences as the work progresses and everyone's continued patience and understanding is greatly appreciated. Please remember, if you have any questions or concerns on the progress of the work please contact our city staff or myself.

As part of this article, I would like to highlight The Castle Hills Community Organization (CHCO). Currently the CHCO is being led by John Kenny and Stacia Spridgen along with a team of wonderful volunteers that are working together for our community in developing and holding family oriented activities for the residents and friends of Castle Hills. Some of the activities of the CHCO include the Snow Day, Easter Egg Hunt, fun Movie Nights and an annual Halloween Party. This year they have started a new program called "Concerts in The Commons" where each month different music types will be highlighted. As a side note, our own Fire Chief Riedel and his band The Vinyl Tones performed at the very first Concert in the Commons held in June. Also being planned is a Casino Night, and a New Year's Eve Party.

Please consider getting involved, supporting and becoming a member of the Community Organization. This is an excellent opportunity to get to know your neighbors across our City and membership is only \$25.00 per year and \$50.00 for a corporate membership. Membership forms can be found on the city website under the "Community" tab.

I am available to discuss our City's issues and encourage you to keep in touch. Please contact me at:

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

Respectfully,  
John Squire  
Mayor Pro Tem  
City Council, Place 3



*Frank Paul,*  
**PLACE 4**

**WE NEED YOUR HELP!!!**

As I drive around the city in the evening, I have noticed many of our street lights are not working. CPS will fix the lights but we need your help.

I cannot just write down the intersection and report a light is out. CPS wants more. And that is where you can help expedite the process.

Please report streetlight repairs or outage by calling 210-353-2222. CPS Energy provides and maintains streetlights throughout the Greater San Antonio area. So be sure and let them know you are from Castle Hills.

**1. IDENTIFY IT:**

Reporting the nearest street address and/or the pole ID number works best. The ID number is usually found on the front of the pole.

**2. DESCRIBE THE PROBLEM:**

The nature of the problem could just be "a streetlight is out". Or a street light is cycling on and off. Another issue could be that a pole or light is physically damaged. And be sure to provide the time you noticed the problem.

**3. CONTACT INFORMATION:**

Provide your name, contact number and the best time to reach you.

**NOTE:**

Always get a work order number and ask when it will be repaired.

**I WOULD LIKE TO THANK OUR PUBLIC WORKS TEAM FOR PUTTING THIS INFORMATION TOGETHER FOR US.**

Have a great summer!

Frank Paul  
Council Member, Place 4  
[fpaul@cityofcastlehills.com](mailto:fpaul@cityofcastlehills.com)



*Douglas Gregory,*  
**PLACE 5**

As we move into the summer months, the City Council will, once again, vote out a Budget for Fiscal Year (FY) 2017. I hope the City Manager will present a balanced budget proposal as she has for the last two years.

This calendar year, almost \$200,000 in monies generated from a budget surplus during FY 2015 will be added to already budgeted funds for infrastructure repair. This will be the third year in a row that serious money is being spent on street and drainage concerns. Problems are being addressed to the best of our abilities with available funds.

Finally, I shall continue to do the best I can to represent your interests and the improvement of the City. Please feel free to call with suggestions or observations. Any and all input is welcomed.

Respectfully,  
Councilman Gregory

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# COUNCIL MEETING HIGHLIGHTS



**May 10, 2016 – Special City Council Meeting**

- Canvassed Election Returns Declaring the Results of May 7, 2016 General Election.
- Canvassed Election Returns Declaring the Results of May 7, 2016 Special Election.
- Administered the oaths of Office for Places 1, 4, 5.

**May 10, 2016 – Regular City Council Meeting**

- Recognized GUS the R.E.A.D. Dog.
- Proclamation for Karate Kids of America.
- Accepted Fiscal Year 2015 Audit and the Comprehensive Annual Financial Report.
- Approved Ordinance No. 2016-05-10 Amending Chapter 8 Buildings and Building Regulations.
- Approved Ordinance No. 2016-05-10A Amending Chapter 44 Traffic and Vehicles.
- Acknowledged receipt of 2016 First Quarter Investment Report.
- Appointed Mr. George Acosta as an Alternate Member to the Board of Adjustment.
- Bank of San Antonio is targeted for a completion date of July 2016.

**May 23, 2016 – Special City Council Meeting**

- City Council went into Executive Session.

**June 14, 2016 – Regular City Council Meeting**

- Proclamation for the Fire Department from MDA.
- Introduction of New Employees: Jose Govea, Code Compliance and Matthew Lemmon, Police Officer.
- Recognized Sgt. Wayne Waggoner for graduating from Law Enforcement Management Institute of Texas (LEMIT).
- Approved Ordinance No. 2016-06-14B Accepting Priority 2 of the Master Drainage Plan.
- Approved Ordinance No. 2016-06-14 Amending Chapter 8 Buildings and Building Regulations Article IV.
- Approved Ordinance No. 2016-06-14A Amending Chapter 8 Building and Building Regulations Article VIII.
- Amended the 2016 Budget with a transfer of \$199,366.00 to the Dedicated Supplemental Street and Drainage Maintenance Fund.
- Appointed Alderman John Squire as Mayor Pro Tem.
- City Manager’s Report included meetings with VIA regarding the bus pads being upgraded; continuing discussions with the City of San Antonio regarding stormwater drainage issues; and status report on hail damage assessments and repairs to city property.

# BREAKFAST AND BINGO!

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# VIA Update

We are honored the citizens of Castle Hills have elected to continue partnering with VIA Metropolitan Transit. With almost 80 stops in and near Castle Hills, VIA is proud to have provided over 500,000 passenger trips in the community during 2015. We look forward to this number increasing as we build toward Vision 2040, the 25-year long-range plan for the agency.

Being able to provide transportation options to the community is one key way VIA can help plan for regional growth and the more than 1 million new residents projected to call Bexar County home over the next 25 years. We look forward to continuing our work together to enhance multimodal transportation options as part of a larger regional network.

We are excited about continuing our relationship with Castle Hills, and we look forward to many successful partnerships in the years to come.



Hello and Happy July!! I hope everyone had a fun and safe 4th of July. We are in a year of growth for the Castle Hills Community Organization. We are adding new activities for all residents of Castle Hills. We are known for providing Great free family fun, such as the Snow Day (which we had to cancel this year because it was too costly), the Easter Egg Hunt, movie nights and our annual Halloween party.

This year we are branching out to include activities for all residents, not just residents with children. The beginnings of this are seen in newest activity "Concerts in The Commons". The concerts are scheduled the second Saturday of every month July through September. Each month we will focus on a different genre of music and introduce a new person or group to our community. Our first concert featured The Vinyl Tones which included our very own Fire Chief Jerry Riedel.

Other activities we have planned for the rest of the year include a Casino Night, the return of movie nights in the fall, our Halloween party and a New Year's Eve Gala. All of our activities are free; however, we cannot do all these activities without the fees collected by membership.

I know most residents are used to getting a flyer in the mail for membership however, due to so few current members we could not afford to mail renewal forms out this year. Currently less than 10 percent of our community are members of the Community Organization which severely restricts the activities we can provide.

Membership is only \$25.00 per household per year and \$50.00 for a corporate membership per year. Membership forms can be found on the city website under the "Community" tab, and you can now pay your membership with the PayPal link on the city website as well.

Come on out to any of our activities they are always free! Ask your neighbors that may have attended the first Concert in The Commons how much fun they had! I hope to see your membership form and y'all at activities in the future. Have a safe and fun summer!

JOHN KENNY,  
President CHCO



## ANNIVERSARIES

<u>5 – Years</u>	Suzanne Riley – Administration
<u>1 – Year</u>	Vicki Beaver – Court
	Daniel Cossu – Police Department
	Jacob Anderson – Public Works

## NEW EMPLOYEES

Matthew Lemmon – Police Department



## Shop CASTLE HILLS New Businesses

Texas A&M Transportation Institute – Research  
Monarch Behavioral Therapy – Clinic  
Pete's Billiards - Retail

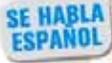
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# Summer Time is Here!

Greetings citizens,

Summer is here and with that I want to provide a few things to consider. For the most part kids are out of school which means they will have more time on their hands. This in and of itself is not necessarily a bad thing but it brings me to point out a few things we see during the course of our duties as police officers. We have more nighttime contact with teenagers. We find our dealings with teens in the late hours increase during the summer. When we interact with teens, we hope the contact is positive. We want it to be. If your son or daughter is going out with friends make sure you know who they are associating with and are keeping good company. We prefer not to have to call you late in the nighttime to let you know your son or daughter is out at 3am with other teens or friends you do not know. Yes, this has happened.

When a stranger knocks on your door, do your kids pretend they are not home? Do they stay quiet and hope the person goes away? It is safer for your child to speak to the person through the locked door. They can tell the person outside that you are busy (napping or on the phone) and cannot come to the door. Your kids should then call Castle Hills' dispatch (342-2341) to have an officer come by the check out the stranger. By responding to the knock at the door, the stranger knows folks are home and that the house is not vacant. Vacant homes are more likely to be burglarized. Of course if the stranger refuses to leave or the kids feel threatened they should call dispatch immediately. In either situation, your kids should call for an officer before they call you.

A few additional safety tips:

- Role play situations your child might encounter when home alone including a stranger at the door, strange noises outside, a simple medical problem, a medical emergency, and/or a fire drill;
- Keep doors and windows locked and if the residence has an alarm, make sure your child knows how to turn it on and have it on when home alone;
- Children are naturally curious and they know where items are "hidden" out of view for safety; remove or lock up dangerous items like guns, knives, razor blades, ammunition and other objects that can cause injury;

- Make sure medications and poisons are stored in locked cabinets or out of reach of children. Properly dispose of unneeded or left over medicines or poisons;
- Post an emergency phone list where your child can see it. Include 911, the non-emergency dispatch number – 342.2341, your cell number, and a number for a trusted adult who is close by.

The police officers are here to work with you to keep you and your family safe. Being prepared and working together makes our community safer.



Wayne Davis  
Chief, Castle Hills PD

## PROPERTY DAMAGE?

**Has your recent hail damage claim been under paid by your insurance company?**

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# Heat Exhaustion and Heat Stroke

Heat-related illnesses, such as heat exhaustion and heatstroke, occur when your body can't keep itself cool. As the air temperature rises, your body stays cool when your sweat evaporates. On hot, humid days, the evaporation of sweat is slowed by the increased moisture in the air. When sweating isn't enough to cool your body, your body temperature rises, and you may become ill.

### What is heat exhaustion?

Heat exhaustion happens when your body gets too hot. It can be caused by physical exercise or hot weather. You may experience: Heavy sweating, Feeling weak and /or confused, Dizziness, Nausea, Headache, Fast heartbeat, Dark-colored urine, which indicates dehydration

### What should I do if I think I have heat exhaustion?

If you think you have heat exhaustion, get out of the heat quickly. Rest in a building that has air-conditioning. If you can't get inside, find a cool, shady place. Drink plenty of water or other fluids. Do NOT drink alcohol or caffeinated drinks (such as soda). These can make heat exhaustion worse. Take a cool shower or bath, or apply cool water to your skin. Take off any tight or unnecessary clothing.

If you do not feel better within 30 minutes, you should contact your doctor. If heat exhaustion is not treated, it can progress to heatstroke.

### What is heatstroke?

Heatstroke is when the internal temperature of the body reaches 104°F. It can happen when your body gets too hot during strenuous exercise or when exposed to very hot temperatures, or it can happen after heat exhaustion isn't properly treated. Heatstroke is much more serious than heat exhaustion. Heatstroke can cause damage to your organs and brain. In extreme cases, it can kill you.

### Symptoms of heatstroke

High fever (104°F or higher), severe headache, dizziness and feeling light-headed, a flushed or red appearance to the skin, lack of sweating, muscle weakness or cramps, nausea, vomiting, fast heartbeat, fast breathing, feeling confused, anxious or disoriented, and seizures.

### What should I do if I think someone has heatstroke?

If you think someone might have heatstroke, call emergency medical personnel immediately. While you are waiting for medical assistance, take the person into an air-conditioned building or a cool, shady place. Remove the person's unnecessary clothing to help cool him or her down. Try to fan air over the person while wetting the skin with water. You can also apply ice packs to the person's armpits, groin, neck and back. These areas contain a lot of blood vessels close to the surface of the skin. Cooling them with ice packs can help the person cool down.

### Get medical help right away if you have these warning signs:

- Skin that feels hot and dry, but not sweaty
- Confusion or loss of consciousness
- Frequent vomiting
- Shortness of breath or trouble breathing



For the complete article go to:  
[www.familydoctor.org](http://www.familydoctor.org)

Have a safe and fun summer!  
Chief Riedel - Castle Hills Fire Department

**DIANA RIDGWAY**  
CRS, ABR, GRI, SRES

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# *Don't Get Scammed by an Unscrupulous Contractor*

If you are needing to replace your roof due to the spring hail storms, or are planning to add a room on to your house there are a few pieces of advice that might save you some headaches and possibly avoid dealing with an unscrupulous contractor. Not all repairs and maintenance at your residence requires a permit. For example you can repair or replace damaged or decaying fascia and soffit without a permit. But if the repairs include repairing or replacing numerous rafters or other structural areas, then a permit might be needed. Small roof repairs can be done without a permit, but a re-roof needs to be permitted.

When a permit is issued, the city will send the building inspector to check that the work is in compliance with current building codes. For example when the shingles or other roofing materials are replaced, the roofer must correctly install flashing, boots around vent pipes, and drip edge around the entire edge of the roof. The building

inspector looks for these and other concerns to ensure the roof you are paying for is up to code. An improperly installed roof can lead to leaks which can damage the structure of your residence, damage sheetrock and even lead to mold issues.

The city prefers for the contractor to pull the permit. This allows the city to register the contractor. The “trades” – electrical, heating and air conditioning, plumbing, and irrigation installers must have state licenses. The trades are also required to carry general liability insurance, and the city requests the policy information when the contractor obtains a permit.

Roofers, general contractors, and “handy man” repairman are not required to carry general liability insurance. State law does not give the city the authority to require insurance except for the trades. If you employ a contractor who does not have insurance, and they damage your property or your neighbor’s property, you may be assuming responsibility for those damages. Many roofers and general contractors do carry insurance, but you should ask this question.

## **A few best practices that might help you ensure a quality job at the agreed price:**

- Get a written contract with the details of the scope of work;
- Include on the contract that all construction debris will be disposed of legally;
- Ask if the contractor or company carries general liability insurance;
- Be sure the permit was obtained from the City of Castle Hills and display the permit at your residence where it is visible from the roadway; and
- Hold final payment until the building inspector approves the final inspection.

Repairs and maintenance are just part of property ownership. Asking the right questions and following best practices can make it a bit easier. Remember the final inspection is required and it is for your benefit.

If you have any questions regarding permits, please contact the permit office at city hall.

**Shweiki**

# Mosquito Bite Prevention for Travelers



Mosquitoes spread many types of viruses and parasites that can cause diseases like chikungunya, dengue, Zika, and malaria. If you are traveling to an area where malaria is found, talk to your healthcare provider about malaria prevention medication that may be available.

**Protect yourself and your family from mosquito bites. Here's how:**

## Keep mosquitoes out of your hotel room or lodging

- Choose a hotel or lodging with air conditioning or screens on windows and doors.
- Sleep under a mosquito bed net if you are outside or in a room that is not well screened. Mosquitoes can live indoors and will bite at any time, day or night.
  - » Buy a bed net at your local outdoor store or online before traveling overseas.
  - » Choose a WHOPEs-approved bed net (like Pramax\*): compact, white, rectangular, with 156 holes per square inch, and long enough to tuck under the mattress.
  - » Permethrin-treated bed nets provide more protection than untreated nets.
    - Permethrin is an insecticide that kills mosquitoes and other insects.
    - Do not wash bed nets or expose them to sunlight. This will break down the insecticide more quickly.
  - » For more information on bed nets: [www.cdc.gov/malaria/malaria\\_worldwide/reduction/itn.html](http://www.cdc.gov/malaria/malaria_worldwide/reduction/itn.html)

## Cover up!

- Wear long-sleeved shirts and long pants. Mosquitoes may bite through thin clothing. Treat clothes with permethrin or another Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)-registered insecticide for extra protection.

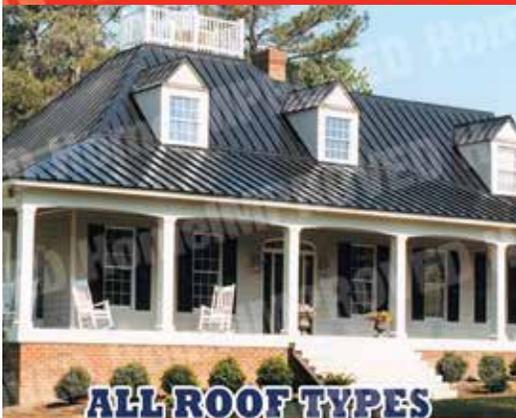


cont'd on pg.12

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### Use only an EPA-registered insect repellent

- When used as directed, EPA-registered insect repellents are proven safe and effective, even for pregnant and breastfeeding women.
- Consider bringing insect repellent with you.
- Always follow the product label instructions.
- Reapply insect repellent as directed.
  - » Do not spray repellent on the skin under clothing.
  - » If you are also using sunscreen, apply sunscreen first and insect repellent second.
- The effectiveness of non-EPA registered insect repellents, including some natural repellents, is not known.
- To protect yourself against diseases like chikungunya, dengue, and Zika, CDC and EPA recommend using an EPA-registered insect repellent.
- For more information: [www2.epa.gov/insect-repellents](http://www2.epa.gov/insect-repellents)

### Use an insect repellent with one of the following active ingredients:

#### Active ingredient

Higher percentages of active ingredient provide longer protection

DEET

**Picaridin**, also known as **KBR 3023**, **Bayrepel**, and **icaridin**

**Oil of lemon eucalyptus (OLE) or para-methane-diol (PMD)**

IR3535



#### Some brand name examples\*



(Insect repellents may be sold under different brand names overseas.)

Off!, Cutter, Sawyer, Ultrathon

Skin So Soft Bug Guard Plus, Autan (outside the United States)

Repel

Skin So Soft Bug Guard Plus Expedition, SkinSmart

### If you are travelling with a baby or child:



- Always follow instructions when applying insect repellent to children.
- **Do not use** insect repellent on babies younger than 2 months of age.
- Instead, dress infants or small children in clothing that covers arms and legs or cover the crib, stroller, and baby carrier with mosquito netting.
  - » Adults: Spray insect repellent onto your hands and then apply to a child's face. Do not apply insect repellent to a child's hands, mouth, cut or irritated skin.
- Do not use products containing oil of lemon eucalyptus (OLE) or para-methane-diol (PMD) on children under 3 years of age.

### Treat clothing and gear



- Use permethrin to treat clothing and gear (such as boots, pants, socks, tents) or purchase permethrin-treated clothing and gear. Read product information to find out how long the protection will last.
- If treating items yourself, always follow the product instructions.
- Do not use permethrin products directly on skin.

\*The use of commercial names is to provide information about products; it does not represent an endorsement of these products by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention or the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

[www.cdc.gov/features/StopMosquitoes](http://www.cdc.gov/features/StopMosquitoes)

## go green

### LET'S DO OUR PART IN HELPING THE ENVIRONMENT!

We are proud to announce we are now offering YOU to "opt-in" to having your Neighborhood Newsletter delivered electronically!

#### HOW?

- 1 Visit [www.NeighborhoodNews.com](http://www.NeighborhoodNews.com)
- 2 Click on: "Let's do our part" and follow the instructions.

#### What will change?

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

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

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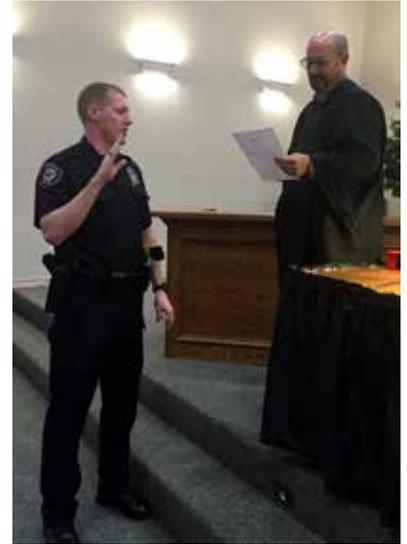
# CITY SNAPSHOTS



Mayor Howell at the June council meeting introduces and welcomes Jose Govea, as the city Code Compliance Official.



Castle Hills Fire Department was recognized at the June council meeting for their efforts in fundraising with the "Fill the Boot" campaign. Margaret Adams with the Muscular Dystrophy Association thanked the fire fighters for raising over \$26,100 during the past five years.



Honorable Judge McCall administers the Oath of Office to Matthew Lemmon who joined the Castle Hills Police Department in May.



The Vinyl Tones Band with lead guitarist Chief Riedel entertained a crowd in June for the first Concert in the Commons hosted by the Castle Hills Community Organization as part of their Summer Saturday Concert Series.



Police Sgt. Waggoner is honored by Chief Davis and Mayor Howell for completing the Law Enforcement Management Institute of Texas Leadership Command College. This prestigious two year program is a consortium of universities offering management training for law enforcement professionals for contemporary policing.

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