

September 2016



The Castle Hills **Reporter**

NATIONAL NIGHT OUT



POLICE • COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS

CASTLE HILLS

Details on
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Message From the Mayor



*Tim Howell
Mayor*

Each day seems to pass so quickly, and the days and weeks become just a blur unless we are faced with something special or out of the ordinary. The birth of a child, the loss of a loved one, or a tragic event can carve images and dates into our memory that last for eternity. In other ways, life seems to be merely a series of continuous cycles. The changing of the seasons, the start of another school year, the preparation of the next fiscal year budget; so many repetitive events. Some cycles bring joy, and others carry stress. I like to think that each cycle brings opportunities to improve on past experiences and learn how to extract the fullest potential out of the cycle. The stock market has periods when prices are bullish, but other times we experience a bear market – opportunities to buy low and sell high.

Real estate rides the waves of highs and lows as well. When real estate is high, the city must decide whether or not to lower the tax rate to reduce property taxes that have increased as a result of higher appraisal values. It always feels like a good idea to lower taxes whenever possible, but we must step back from that instant reaction and consider the long term picture.

The City Council chose in the past few years to not use the effective tax rate (which would reduce the tax rate to compensate for the increase in property values to keep taxes from rising), but to stay at the preceding year's tax rate and collect the extra ad valorem taxes. Why would the Council fail to save you tax money? It is the long term picture. The streets and drainage in Castle Hills need improvements and repairs. In 2013, the city held a bond election to attempt to fund the needed repairs, and the voters said no. I appreciate and respect that sentiment. When a loan is taken, there is interest that must be paid. The interest is your tax dollars being spent to pay for the use of the money, and not money being spent to provide infrastructure and services. We should pay as we go. It is good for our individual households and businesses, and it is good for the city. Don't get me wrong, there may be times when we need to borrow money. But until then, we will follow the will of the people and pay cash.

Now back to the concept of cycles. When real estate values drop, ad valorem revenues will drop as appraisals fall. To hedge against the inevitable downward cycle, the city chose to keep the tax rate steady to prepare for the lows. Warren Buffet has been credited for saying "someone is sitting in the shade today because someone planted a tree a long time ago." I am happy to be able to say that the Council is preparing for the long term.

My thanks to the Castle Hills Community Organization for the Concerts in the Commons. For those of you who missed the concerts during the summer, I hope you will make plans to attend the next ones. Check Facebook, the Castle Hills website, Twitter, Instagram and NextDoor for upcoming CHCO events. I also look forward to visiting with you as we join together with our neighbors on Tuesday, October 4th for National Night Out. Friendly, caring neighbors are not only nice to be around, but knowing and partnering with them can help keep criminals out of the neighborhood.

Enjoy the fall season. Please contact city staff or a Council member if you have any questions or needs.

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

Mike Shands
Interim 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

ALL EMERGENCIES, EMT, FIRE &
POLICE CALL 911

Non-emergency (210) 342-2341

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

City Council
2nd Tuesday, 6:30pm

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

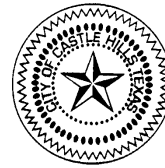
Board of Adjustment
3rd Wednesday, 7:00pm
Upon Request

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

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



Council Comments



JR Trevino,
Place 1

Friends,

Summer is almost officially gone, but the school year has just arrived. I hope that you and your families had a great Summer. Please remember that Castle Hills is home to numerous schools in and around our City. Be mindful of your speed and watch for children around the streets. School zones are in full effect so hands free only devices for cell phone use and check your speed for the safety of the children and adults.

National Night Out is right around the corner and what better way to meet your neighbors. NNO will be taking place on October 4, 2016 at around 6:30 PM. Last year we had a great turnout with a record number of hosts, 13 to be exact. If you are interested in hosting, please contact Ms. Maribel Mendoza with Castle Hills Police Department. The deadline for official hosts is September 23rd.

Lastly, after some of our recent Council meetings and budget workshops some residents shared with me some of their concerns. I want to thank those residents and encourage others to do the same. As great of a City as we have, there is always room for growth and improvement. Unfortunately, we cannot always see the areas that need attention. We rely on residents to help us by being our eyes and ears.

Thank you for working with us to make Castle Hills an even better place to live, work, and visit!

Yours in service,

JR Trevino
City Council, Place 1
JTrevino@CityofCastleHills.com
210-559-5940



Matthew Daggett,
Place 2

Hello Neighbors,

It's that time of year again for National Night Out on October 4. I encourage you to get out and meet your neighbors, or even host a party. Castle Hills has had great participation in the past and we look forward to this year being even better. To learn more about National Night Out or to register your block party, contact Maribel Mendoza, Police Administrative Assistant at 342-2341.

If you have any concerns or ideas you would like to share, please feel free to contact me at:

210-849-6209 cell or
mdaggett@cityofcastlehills.com

I look forward to visiting with you and your neighbors on National Night Out!

Matt Daggett
City Council, Place 2



John Squire,
PLACE 3

I am a huge proponent of and have over the past 3 years worked with our city staff to restart the maintenance of our infrastructure. Part of this process included the addition of a data driven proactive maintenance program for our streets, alleys, and associated infrastructure. To date,

I believe that we are starting to see the benefits of this work in relation to the many streets in our city that have been improved. We have many more to go and it is my intent to get all our streets up to an acceptable standard. Please note that all the work that has been done to date has occurred within the existing allocated and departmental budgets of our city without incurring any debt.

Going forward, it is my intent for the maintenance and infrastructure improvement process to continue. The heat of summer typically is the

Continued on page 4>>

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Continued from Page 3>>

prime time to address street repairs. The crack sealing in West Avenue is completed. The joint project with SAWS to repair and replace the water/sewer infrastructure, and the resurfacing of East and West Castle Lane, Krameria, Mimosa, Adobe, Gladiola, and Danube is moving along despite the spring rains and the pleasant surprise of rain in August. Some of you might have noticed, we are now working on cutting and repairing the various larger depressions that have formed in many of our streets. These depressions cause puddling of storm water which contribute to degrading the condition of the streets. Upon completing the majority of the work on the depressions, we are also investigating seal coating the surface of our streets. In doing so, we will first be trying some more environmentally friendly water based emulsions to help better judge their applicability on our existing streets.

Our streets were neglected for many years and unfortunately, the maintenance process is long and cumbersome. It is my expectation that with fiscally conservative decisions, continued efforts with our staff, and allocated funding, we can continue with the street maintenance program. Over time, our streets will return to a condition that we all can be proud of and avoid this type of situation in the future.

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 or
phone – 210-390-4611

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



Frank Paul,
PLACE 4

The first Tuesday of October neighborhoods in Castle Hills hosts what is becoming one of my favorite city council duties, National Night Out. The rest of the country celebrates on the first Tuesday in August, but due to our extreme summer heat, the National Association

of Town Watch has made the exception for the great State of Texas to celebrate in October.

What is so special about National Night Out? For me, it is the willingness to unite, build friendships, and establish a commonality between neighbors. This occurs not just in Castle Hills but in communities across the country. It is always fun to watch kids and adults climb in the fire trucks, sit in the seat of a police car, or just hang out on the lawn visiting with neighbors. Each neighborhood becomes a small town with small town values and friendships. It helps us to rejuvenate our humanity and remember that the world is made up of lots of good caring folks. Strong police and community relationships can be forged at a fun social event.

I hope that you plan to join in the festivities on Tuesday, October 4th. I look forward to attending your National Night Out party as we build relationships while securing our neighborhoods and the community.

A special welcome back to Mike Shands who is serving as the Interim City Manager. Many of you will remember Mike from his tenure as City Manager in 2002 to 2006. Thank you for returning to Castle Hills during this period of transition.

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



Douglas Gregory,
PLACE 5

As issues come before the City Council I tend to look at their merit through an economic prism. I feel strongly that the life blood of our City is money because without funds quality employees will go elsewhere. How your tax dollars are spent is critical to our City. Mismanagement, to any

significant degree, over a prolonged period, robs us of our most valuable asset, time.

During the last five years or so (when fracking increased economic activity in South Texas) a slow renaissance of new businesses, upgrading of existing homes and new developments have occurred. We must keep this momentum going. Right now we have the potential of quality future growth with increased internal improvements but this window of opportunity will not remain open forever. If thoughtful planning combined with conservative management of your tax dollars is not done, time and opportunity will pass us by.

Finally, we must insure that any major infrastructure improvements be chosen with the full knowledge and approval of the City Council before a project begins (unless it is an emergency). Major choices should always be presented to council with the merits debated and voted on. Councilmembers must have the courage of their convictions. Impress upon the Mayor and Council members that for the future of Castle Hills, to tax and spend wisely. After all, it is your tax money.

Respectfully,
Councilman Gregory

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COUNCIL MEETING

HIGHLIGHTS



July 11, 2016 – Special City Council Meeting

July 12, 2016 – Regular City Council Meeting

- Proclamation for the chosen Mayor and certificates for Finalists of “If I Were a Mayor Contest” were announced.
- Jana Baker was provided a plaque and announced 2015 Citizen of the Year.
- Captain J. Siemens was acknowledged for graduating from LEEDA.
- National Night Out was announced - October 4, 2016.
- Budget Workshop schedules were posted on the website.
- HEB’s ARC application for a new fuel kiosk was approved.
- Approved June 2016 Treasurer’s Report.

July 21, 2016 – Special City Council Meeting and Budget Workshop #1

- 1015 Jackson Keller’s ARC application was approved.
- 1011 Jackson Keller’s Tree Removal application was approved.
- Council appointed Mike Shands as Interim City Manager.
- Budget workshop was held.

July 26, 2016 – Budget Workshop #2

August 8, 2016 – Budget Workshop #3 & Tax Rate

August 9, 2016 – Special City Council Meeting and Regular City Council Meeting

- Introduced Mike Shands as the Interim City Manager.
- National Night Out will be held October 4, 2016.
- Budget Workshop schedule is posted online.
- Approved of July 2016 Treasurer’s Report.
- Approved Resolution R2016-08-09 Adopting City of Castle Hills Investment Policy.
- Appointed David Olivares and Conry Davidson to the Crime Control Prevention District (CCPD).
- Created a permanent position of Permit/Admin Clerk.

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Castle Hills Woman's Club

Dear Friends,

You gotta have heart! That was the theme Denise Haley employed when she installed officers for our 2016-17 year. How right she is, especially when she said "The Castle Hills Woman's Club has had miles and miles of heart for over 60 years!"

Every member has so much heart and we put it into our club, into our city, and into our care for each other. Be sure to thank this year's officers and committee chairs for putting their all into our club. Every year you inspire me with all the good things you do.

- Volunteering at Jackson-Keller Elementary School;
- Fiesta Castle Hills was chaired by one of our officers and several of the volunteers were from our club!
- Our members serve our city government on every way possible – from council, to staff, to comprising committees.

We always have a winning year! From our membership meeting in September to our Spring Installation in May, we will have another winning year and another year of good works, good friends, and good times.

Our first club meeting for the year is Monday, September 12 at 6:30 where we will "kick off the year" and welcome our new and returning members. The next meeting is Monday, October 3, also at 6:30 when we will be "Finding our Creative Spark"!

Interested in joining the Castle Hills Woman's Club? Please send an email to castlehillswomansclub@gmail.com.

Here's to all of you and all your heart!

Susan

Susan Cone Kilgore
President, Castle Hills Woman's Club



ANNIVERSARIES

Romeo Munoz – Police Department
5 – Years



Shop CASTLE HILLS New Businesses

Bank of San Antonio – Bank/Financial

Botas 2 Gallitos – Money Transfers/Wires

Discoteca 2 Gallitos – Boots/Apparel

Lee Medical Associates – Medical

Progressive Clinical Research – Medical

Vortex Realty – Real Estate

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As summer draws to a close (at least as the school year is concerned and not so much the temperature), a new school year is upon us. That said, please exercise more caution in and around the school zones wherever your travels may take you. The excitement and stress of a new school year coupled with more traffic volume, make for potentially dangerous situations. Specifically, we have several within our fine city. As a reminder, the following is a list of schools in or very near our city limits:

1400 Jackson Keller – Jackson Keller Elementary
 1600 Jackson Keller – Lee High School
 6400 West Avenue – Antonian Preparatory High School
 6900 West Avenue – St. George Episcopal School
 2200 Military Hwy – Castle Hills First Baptist School
 200 Lemonwood at Honeysuckle – Castle Hills Elementary School
 5500 Blanco – Birch School of Excellence
 5400 Blanco – Nimitz Middle School

The specific times and locations, as well as lawful speeds, are posted in the school zones by either signage and/or flashing yellow lights. It goes without saying that we need to exercise the same caution throughout our city as many children walk or bike their way to school. Still further, it is the neighborly thing to do.

October is just around the corner bringing cooler temperatures and opportunities to enjoy the outside. Why not plan to host a block party for this year's NNO in Texas on Tuesday, October 4th. Please access the still new and dynamic city website for more details surrounding this great event and how you can participate or host a block party. The city website is found at: www.cityofcastlehills.com.

As always, if you observe or suspect suspicious activity please do not hesitate to contact your Police Department, we are always here to serve and grateful to do so. Thank you for your support.

Captain John Siemens
 Castle Hills Police Department



Wayne Davis
 Chief, Castle Hills PD



We are right in the middle of hurricane season. Although we are not on the coast, the Castle Hills area can certainly be affected and has been affected by strong winds and torrential rains that accompany those storms. There are preparations that can be made ahead of time to protect you and your family from these storms or any other type of natural disasters such as fires, tornados, floods, etc. You should be aware of what the impending hazards are and what you can do to prepare you and your family.

There are a few easy steps you can do in advance to help protect your family, such as putting together an emergency supply kit and developing a family emergency plan.

There is an excellent resource available on the web to assist you with all of your planning needs. The site is: www.readysouthtexas.gov. There are planning guides and templates for a variety of emergency situations. You will also find links to other government agencies that can help with emergency planning. If you are not able to access the web, please feel free to contact us at the Fire Department (210-342-2341) and we can go over these guides on a one to one basis. Plan ahead and please Stay Safe!!



Chief Riedel
 Castle Hills Fire Department





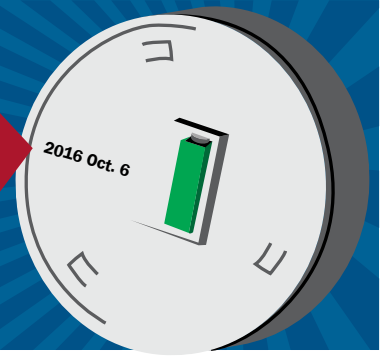
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Don't Wait — Check the Date!

Replace Smoke Alarms Every 10 Years



Fire Prevention Week
Oct. 9-15, 2016

Age matters when it comes to your smoke alarms.
Check the manufacture dates on your smoke alarms today!

1

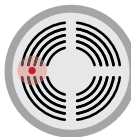
Remove the smoke alarm from the wall or ceiling.



A closed door may slow the spread of smoke, heat and fire.



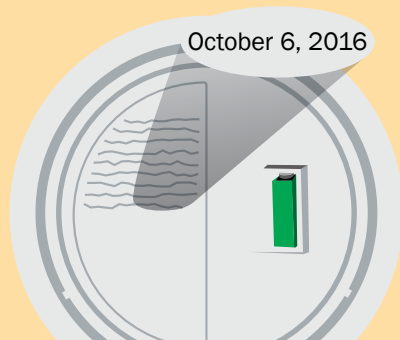
Test smoke alarms at least once a month by pushing the test button.



Install smoke alarms in every sleeping room and outside each separate sleeping area. For the best protection, make sure all smoke alarms are interconnected. When one sounds, they all sound.

2

Look at the back of the alarm for the date of manufacture.



If the smoke alarm sounds, get outside and stay outside. Go to your outside meeting place.



Call the fire department from a cellphone or a neighbor's phone. Stay outside until the fire department says it's safe to go back inside.

For more information about smoke alarms, visit usfa.fema.gov and firepreventionweek.org.

U.S. Fire
Administration

FEMA

U.S. Fire
Administration

NFPA

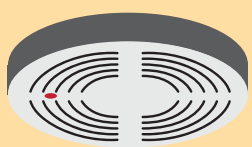
3

Smoke alarms should be replaced 10 years from the date of manufacture.



4

Put the alarm back on the ceiling or wall if it is less than 10 years old.



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SOLD

The Castle Hills Police Department in conjunction with the City of Castle Hills would like to invite you to participate: **National Night Out 2016!**

*Once again, we would like to thank all previous years' participants for your
continued support and hope to see you again this year!*



POLICE • COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS



GET THE WORD OUT.

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- Discounts and Multiple Ad Sizes Available
- Ask About Other Neighborhoods in Your Area

PUBLIC WORKS



Spring has come and gone. However, it seems that the term “spring cleaning” really is a year round activity for many of us. It’s out with the old, in with the new. We all get into these cleaning modes and when we do, we end up with loads of “stuff” to discard. For a minimal fee, Castle Hills’ sanitation can pick up items you wish to discard and take them to the landfill. Call me anytime between 8-5, Monday through Friday, and I can come by and let you know how much it will cost to remove these unwanted items. In more ways than one, this pick up will cost you far less than you may think. Typically, you will not have to wait for more than a day to have your items hauled off. You will be sent a notice or summons from Code Compliance for storing debris on your property. You will not have to lift these items onto your truck or trailer. You do not have to drive

to a landfill. You can save time and effort to finish up your “spring cleaning”.

As a courtesy to the neighborhood, however you choose to discard your items, please keep in mind that open storage is not allowed in any zoning district in the city. Please do not place your items out by the curb or in the alley earlier than 6:00 p.m. the day before collection day.

A big THANK YOU to everyone that helps to make Castle Hills the “City of Beautiful Homes”.

Rick Harada
Director of Public Works
(210) 342-2341 Ext. 206

Shweiki

go green

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

You Might Have Contaminated Flour in Your Pantry

This summer, General Mills had to recall millions of pounds of Gold Medal flour contaminated with the deadly E. coli O121 strain of bacteria. As of August 5, 2016, a total of 46 people in 21 states had become infected, resulting in 13 hospitalizations. The recall included a number of General Mills products including 13.5 oz. Gold Medal Wondra; Gold Medal All Purpose Flour packed in 2 lb., 4.25 lb., 5 lb. and 10 lb. quantities. Other companies using the contaminated flour also had to recall their products; including: Marie Callender's Biscuit, Golden Dip Jalapeno Bread, and Betty Crocker Cake Mix; to name a few.

Local residents are urged to check their pantries for any of the products being recalled. Some may have a "use-by date" that extends beyond March, 2017. The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) is warning people not to eat raw cookie dough and warning parents to not let their children play with or eat raw dough. FDA is also advising consumers

to: "bake and cook all flour-containing items to proper cooking temperatures. Wash hands, wash and sanitize work surfaces, and utensils after contact with raw dough products containing flour".

Health officials are advising restaurants to throw away any recalled General Mills flour and to wash and sanitize display cases and refrigerators where potentially contaminated flour was stored. Consumers with additional questions should contact General Mills at 800-230-8103. Additional recall information can also be found at www.generalmills.com/flour website. Information on safe cooking and handling food can be obtained from FDA at 1-888-SAFEFOOD Monday through Friday between 10 a.m. and 4 p.m. or consulting the fda.gov website: www.fda.gov.

Submitted by Homer Emery, Registered Sanitarian
City Health Inspector

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CODE ENFORCEMENT

Families are back into the school year routine and the heat of summer is beginning to subside. Castle Hills is a great city in which to live. To help maintain the quality of life within the city, code enforcement is a tool to support our city and community. The job of code enforcement is to respond to citizen concerns and to act on violations observed while making routine drives around the city.

The following are the top five issues that the city addresses through either citizen generated complaints or by observation:

- High grass/weeds/overgrown vegetation in yards and alleys;
- Trees over streets and alleys with clearances below 12 feet;
- Illegal parking - RV's, trailers, commercial trucks, and/or parking on the grass in front and side yards;
- Debris on the property and alley; and
- Junked, inoperable vehicles

Not listed in the usual top five violations, but now a frequent occurrence - working without a permit. Since June, the city has responded to complaints or witnessed roofers working without permits. The usual excuse given - "we thought we were in San Antonio." Permits are also required in San Antonio, so this excuse lacks credence. If you are planning to have your roof replaced, remind your roofing contractor to obtain a permit before the work begins. The permit must be visible from the roadway, so look around your property to ensure your contractor has properly posted the permit. It is not just roofing contractors that fail to get a permit, tree trimmers need a gentle reminder to obtain permits prior to trimming or removing trees.

Thanks for helping to preserve the quality of life you expect and deserve in Castle Hills. Code enforcement is just one of the many ways that Castle Hills remains a safe beautiful city.

Jose Govea
Code Enforcement



 <p>ORGANIZE²FIND</p> <p>Will help you create a step by step plan to fit your organizing needs</p> <p>Hollywood Park Residents</p>	<p>Call or E-mail today for your free assessment: 210-865-1295 jay@organize2find.com</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • DOWNSIZING • ORGANIZE FAMILY MEMORIES • RECLAIM SPACE • MOVING/RELOCATION • ESTATE SALES 
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CITY SNAPSHOTS



Citizens salute the flag in the flag raising ceremony on the 4th of July.



Police Captain Siemens is recognized by Chief Davis and Mayor Howell for completion of the LEEDA professional law enforcement training program at the July council meeting.



Jana Baker was presented the 2015 Citizen of the Year Award by Mayor Howell at the July 12th city council meeting.



Zemira Buntyn, daughter of City Secretary Kym Buntyn enjoyed the face painting at the 4th of July celebration in the Commons.



Residents show their patriotic pride during the 4th of July "Decorate Your Ride" parade.



Municipal Court volunteers, Patsy Martin and Joyce Buie, are honored by Judge McCall and the court staff for their continuing dedication assisting with municipal court duties.

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