

March 2017



The Castle Hills **Reporter**

Fiesta Castle Hills 2017

Details on pg. 12

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Message From the Mayor



*Tim Howell
Mayor*

The United States of America is founded on some basic principles: The founding fathers specifically created the separation of powers through the Legislative, Executive, and Judicial branches. They enhanced this concept with checks and balances where each branch of the government is dependent on the other to function. To further control the federal government they developed the division of sovereignty between the national government and the state governments and by separating the election of the President from Congress. The Bill of Rights (the first ten amendments to the Constitution) further strengthens the limiting of powers.

The First Amendment grants the citizens of the United States the right of freedom of speech. We can speak, hold signs, engage in civil discourse, or march in protest without interference or constraint by the government. In the past few years we have seen a tremendous increase in protesting, and unfortunately, some events have turned violent. The media has highly publicized the violent unrest, and the actions of these few tarnish the image of our wonderful country.

Throughout the years, the residents of Castle Hills have engaged in civil discourse over various issues. I can honestly say that our residents have also embraced civility when disagreeing. Disagreements often occur due to ignorance, lack of information, differences in personal perspectives, assumptions, or disparity in values. It is possible to state and defend your position without attacking, name calling, or in the worst case resorting to criminal behavior. You, the residents of Castle Hills, demonstrate a caring for the common welfare of the community, you arm yourselves with knowledge, you consult experts, and you strive to find mutual understanding in an effort to reach a resolution.

I wish the citizens on the news that act out without regard for the community and the welfare of others could model the behavior of the Castle Hills residents. The founding fathers respected our rights to speak out. The First Amendment strengthened this right. Sharing your concerns and ideas, working cooperatively, and at times agreeing to disagree makes our country and our community stronger and better.

For our country, I hold Castle Hills as a shining example of democracy and the importance of the First Amendment. President Kennedy shared these poignant words during his 1961 inaugural address in reference to the caustic relationship between the United States and Russia – “So let us begin anew -- remembering on both sides that civility is not a sign of weakness, and sincerity is always subject to proof. Let us never negotiate out of fear, but let us never fear to negotiate. Let both sides explore what problems unite us instead of belaboring those problems which divide us.” The meaning of these words still ring true today for both local, national, and international concerns.

There are lots of exciting events during the next few months. April 22nd is Fiesta in Castle Hills. We hope you and your family will attend the parade, and visit the Commons for fun, food and entertainment. Early voting begins Monday, April 24th and Election Day is Saturday, May 6th. Please take note that there is a change in early voting dates. The polls are closed on Friday, April 28th. Please exercise your right by taking a few minutes to stop by the community room at city hall and cast your vote.

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

Curt Van De Walle
City Manager, (210) 293-9673

Kymberlee Buntyn
City Secretary, (210) 293-9681

Suzanne Riley
Finance, (210) 293-9674

Jerry Riedel
Fire Department Chief
(210) 342-2341, ext. 217

Wayne Davis
Police Department Chief
(210) 342-2341

Rick Harada
Public Works & Animal Control
Department Director
(210) 293-9676

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



A GREAT TEAM

By Curt Van De Walle, City Manager

HOWDY! That's the traditional friendly greeting at Texas A&M University, and it may as well be the same for the City of Castle Hills with all the warm welcomes I've received here since my arrival on January 3rd. It was a somewhat humiliating start, showing up to my new post with 11 staples and 10 stitches in my head from playing hide-n-seek after dark with my 8-year old nephew over the Christmas break (I'd like to say, "You should see the other guy," but it was an oak tree and probably didn't feel a thing); that said, virtually everyone I have met during the past month has been very friendly and welcoming.

My first impressions of the City are also very favorable. Every city has its own attitude, or "Mojo," and I get the feeling that the "Mojo" in Castle Hills is generally positive and friendly. I went on a construction tour last week with our Building Inspector, who serves several small municipalities, and asked him how the people in Castle Hills compare to those in other similar-sized cities. I was encouraged by his response, "I like the people in Castle Hills. They are generally more friendly and nicer." That certainly rings true with my experience thus far.

Likewise, the dedication and solid work ethic of the City staff has impressed me. I realize this is an area where a municipality will often receive criticism; however, I can assure you that the City staff here puts in a full day's work and then some on a regular basis. The hours can be long at the City offices with evening meetings coming on the heels of a full day's work, but the staff accommodates all meetings with a positive attitude and nary a grumble. Similarly, the Court clerks are often here well into the evening when most people are already enjoying dinner with their families as they attend to the Municipal Court. On the Public Works front, the team responds to any claims or calls almost instantaneously, often dropping their regularly scheduled work to attend to a resident's concern. All are working hard to take care of our residents. That's the nature of the beast here, and all work cheerfully to accomplish the mission.

Perhaps the crown jewel in the crown of the City of Castle Hills is our emergency services, namely our Police, Fire and Dispatch. The average response time of our Fire Department and Police is approximately 3 minutes... that's unimaginable in a large city like San Antonio! When seconds count, your city responders are there. All of our Firefighters are trained as EMTs and several are Paramedics, meaning you and your loved ones will receive medical attention as soon as they arrive on the scene while waiting for the ambulance to arrive. Likewise, I have received several compliments from stranded motorists on our Police force who take the time to stop and assist them if they are not on a call. The police department also responded to resident's requests to monitor speeding in their neighborhoods. By the way, we now have a speed trailer (affectionately dubbed REO after REO Speedwagon) which we are using to provide data on speeders on our roads as well. Residents can fill out a request on the Castle Hills website to have REO placed on their street for a time to allow us to gather statistics as well as to help calm traffic.

In addition to finding my way around Castle Hills and familiarizing myself with the City's processes, codes, and ordinances, the issues which have consumed much of my time this past month have been streets, drainage and getting up to speed on the new BASIS Charter School development proposal. We held the inaugural meeting of the combined Streets and Drainage Committee meeting on January 31st and subsequent meetings will be on the 4th Tuesday of each month at 6 pm. I was encouraged by the resident's participation we have on that committee. Regarding streets, we are in the process of re-scrubbing the program in an attempt to get the biggest return for investment on our streets program. In addition to looking for ways we can leverage relatively small investments to mitigate stormwater impacts to residents, we have also been engaging with the City of San Antonio and Bexar Regional Watershed Management in an attempt to develop a drainage solution that will resolve some of the long-standing drainage issues Castle Hills has been fighting. Both streets and drainage are big infrastructure improvements which will take years to fix, but we are committed to finding the best way ahead.

The BASIS Charter School held a Townhall meeting on February 6th which can be viewed on the Castle Hills website at the UTUBE link. Most of the residents who attended were quick to point out that BASIS School's credentials speak for themselves as far as being a world class school, but they were concerned regarding the impact to Castle Hills and our residents. The biggest concern raised has been the impact to traffic in that area during school drop off and pickup. BASIS has provided a preliminary Traffic Impact Analysis which we have posted on the City website (at the link with the Traffic Cop image). BASIS is tweaking this study after receiving comments from Castle Hills, TxDOT and the City of San Antonio. Once we receive the final study, we will commission a third party traffic engineer to thoroughly review the plan, all at the developer's cost, so we can ensure the traffic mitigation plan will actually work. I know there have been a number of concerns with the development, concerns which the City staff shares, and while the City cannot stop the sale of land between two private parties we have engaged to ensure the impact to our community and our residents are minimized.

To end on a high note, the City of Castle Hills is preparing for our Annual Fiesta Parade & Party in the Commons on April 22nd. The Fiesta Committee is in full swing finalizing the details. I've heard some of the preliminary plans and am very excited about the big event! Stay tuned to our Castle Hills website for more news, but mark your calendars on that day to spend some time celebrating with your friends and neighbors in Castle Hills!

I look forward to continue meeting the fine citizens of Castle Hills! If you are ever up in the City offices or see me out around town please pull me aside and say "HOWDY!"

Your City Manager,
Curt Van De Walle



Council Comments



JR Trevino,
Place 1

Friends,

As I am preparing my article I am on my way back from our Nation's Capital. I had the privilege of joining the San Antonio Chamber and the Hispanic Chamber on a delegation trip to represent not only my company but my City. The purpose was for San Antonio area representatives to visit with our Nation's leaders and their staff about the direction of our Country.

We heard from Congressmen that cover the San Antonio area; their thoughts on key legislative areas and points of interest. The biggest honor was being able to sit in on meetings with the Department of Commerce and the Department of Education. The departments were excited to have representation from Castle Hills because as they put "we are a part of the San Antonio region."

In our down time, I had the opportunity to meet with many of our local leaders from the City, County, and local agencies. It was important to me for Castle Hills to have representation and ensure that we develop strong strategic relationships with our partners, locally and nationally. While in D.C. I was mindful of our street and drainage problems. I am hopeful that the relationships I made and the ones I strengthened will help us address our issues.

Lastly, by the time you are reading this Fiesta will be right around the corner. While San Antonio has countless Fiesta events, I encourage you to take part in Fiesta Castle Hills. Aside from it being fun, it is a great time to meet your neighbors.

If you want to learn more about my trip to D.C. or if I can be of service, please feel free to contact me.

Yours in service,

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



Matthew Daggett,
Place 2

On February 1st the city entered into the "No Oak Tree Trimming" period. This is done to hopefully reduce the spread of oak wilt in our area. Oak wilt is a devastating disease that can quickly spread through tree canopies and root systems and within a short period of time kill large numbers of trees. Red

Oaks are very susceptible to oak wilt and may aid in the establishment of new oak wilt infections. White oaks have a small level of resistance to the disease, but can still perish from an oak wilt infection. Live oaks have a moderate level of susceptibility, but due to their interconnected root systems and

the development of young trees from root sprouts the disease moves more freely between trees. Oak wilt can spread up to 100 feet per year through the connect root system.

The disease is spread in two primary methods, the sap feeding nitidulid beetle carries the oak wilt fungus from diseased trees as they feed on fresh wounds on healthy trees; and through interconnected roots described above.

The beetles are active in the early months of the year and have reduced activity in the heat of the summer and cooler months. The city prohibits the trimming of oak trees from February 1st until July 1st. This reduces the opportunity for disease transmission. The immediate painting of fresh cuts and wounds is one of the best defenses for stopping the disease.

The City of Castle Hills will on an emergency basis allow for oak tree trimming or removal during the no trim period, but only on a case by case basis. If you have a tree that is damaged, or threatens property or persons, bring photos to city hall and request an emergency permit. Also if oak wilt is discovered on your property, you are required to notify the city so that your neighbors can be alerted, so that they may begin treating their trees to try to save them before they get infected.

The trees in Castle Hills are one of the greatest natural attributes in our city. Our trees are beautiful, provide shade, reduce heating, reduce stormwater run-off, and add immeasurable value to our properties and lives. If you have questions, please contact the staff in the permitting office, or visit the Texas Forestry Service website at <http://texasoakwilt.org/>.

If I can be of any assistance, I can be reached at (210) 849-6209 or at mdaggett@cityofcastlehills.com.

Matt Daggett
City Council, Place 2



John Squire,
PLACE 3

At the February regular city council meeting I introduced an agenda item to instruct our Mayor to task the Master Planning Committee with the consideration of sidewalks across our community. It is my hope that they will consider recommending sidewalks designed to current codes for all commercial properties, around our schools, and multifamily properties.

Continued on page 4>>

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<<Continued from Page 3

Sidewalks are just one item that needs to be considered to provide and encourage walkability around our city. Other ideas that have been brought forward include adjusting speed limits in residential areas, speed humps, better definition of and installation of grassy center medians at some of the residential street intersections, and closing off some of our streets at perimeter street intersections to stop cut thru's to name just a few.

To take the walkability concept a little further and as taken from the non-profit organization, SPUR, in general walkability can be distilled down into 7 principles for urban and suburban areas.

1. Create fine-grained pedestrian circulation
2. Orient buildings to street and open spaces
3. Organize uses to support public activity
4. Place parking behind or below buildings
5. Address the human scale with building and landscape details
6. Provide clear, continuous pedestrian access
7. Build complete streets

As a city, we can utilize these condensed principles along with our own ideas specific to our community as our updated master plan is debated and evolves into our principle guidance document.

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

jsquire@cityofcastlehills.com or
210-390-4611

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



Frank Paul,
PLACE 4

Spring is time for spring cleaning. Maybe it is time to replace a few rotted boards on the trim of your house, or dispose of junk or discarded items residing on your porch or in your backyard. Have the projects of the future become eyesores that are deteriorating? If you need bulk item pick-up, contact Rick Harada, Director of Public Works at (210) 218-1886 for an estimate for removal, or stop by city hall for a dumpster permit for larger clean-ups. Maybe you have a car you are no longer using. A search on the computer for "Donate Your Car" results in many



organizations that will remove your running or inoperative vehicle or boat. You will even receive a donation receipt for your income taxes.

Castle Hills is a beautiful community, but to maintain that beauty we each need to occasionally step out to the curb and really look at our own properties. If you have a neighbor who is unable to tackle maintenance and/or clean-up due to illness, age, infirmities or even a lack of discretionary income maybe you or someone in your household can spare a few hours to pitch in and help. Being a good neighbor is more than waving when you walk out to get your mail.

Keeping our yards clean also reduces the hidden places for standing water which serves as a breeding site for mosquitoes. The spraying that the city has done in the past is merely a short term fix. It takes all of us working together to help reduce breeding sites. Mosquitoes will never be completely controlled, so taking preventative measures is necessary for all.

Castle Hills is a wonderful community. I continue to meet residents who share their love of Castle Hills. It is us, the residents that make this a great place to live.

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



Douglas Gregory,
PLACE 5

The future of Castle Hills is bright if City leadership is fiscally prudent and remember they work for the resident taxpayers not the City Department Heads. This seems like an obvious statement however, it appears to have been lost over time. Expectations of large tax receipts confirm government official's belief that it is easy to spend other people's money. The potential loss of chunks of taxable property has not made a dent in the free flow of spending by City officials. Have you ever heard of a government department proclaim they have enough employees? Enough money for the fiscal year? Or more laughable, a call for any decrease in anything?

When I was a boy, the cost of a comic book rose 20% to 12c from 10c. Two pennies hide the tremendous percentage rise because 2c is nothing. However, if you are talking of items costing say \$75,000 to \$100,000, a 20% increase is a large dollar amount and over the long term, the compounding effect will cause severe headaches. When you increase the number of City employees over 50% while the City population is decreasing almost 20% during that same period of time, the Law of Large Numbers will come into play and even the glibbest of politicians will be unable to come up with anything but a very painful solution.

I am urging a significant change in spending priorities. We must put the taxpayer first, continue to address infrastructure repair and consider with more thought the use of cost benefit analysis on how your City Representatives spend your money. The City does not have a right to your money unless you allow it. After all, it is your hard earned after tax dollars.

Respectfully,
Councilman Gregory

"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."



Dear Friends,

I am so proud of what the Castle Hills Woman's Club accomplished so far this year. Under the leadership of Community Liaison Norma McClelland, our members were honored at the NEISD Superintendent's Awards in December. See page 14 for photo!

Special Projects Chair JoAnne Hayashi investigated multiple funding requests and in December, the Club donated a Texas flag and United States flag at our City Council Meeting. Those flags are flying proudly over our fair city. Thank you to Castle Hills for including that photo in the last *Reporter*.

If you enjoyed our programs in December, you know that 1st VP Helen Reichenberger delivered a wonderful meeting with delicious food and an interesting program at The Argyle. We owe special thanks to Fun Time Chair Anna Armstrong for sponsoring our event at The Argyle and for the beautiful table favors. 3rd VP Theresa Casey coordinated our club's beautiful decoration of the Community Room, our cookie gifts for every City employee, and of course, our city-famous annual holiday party!

What's coming up? Our April meeting celebrates Fiesta, of course and our club members and families will be doing our part for Fiesta Castle Hills! In May, we honor our newly elected officers and celebrate at our end of the year gala. And your \$25 dues ... are due April 1.

Come join us at any program. See you soon!

Susan

Susan Cone Kilgore
President, Castle Hills Woman's Club

**Interested in joining the
Castle Hills Woman's Club?**

Please send an email to castlehillswomansclub@gmail.com.



Happy Spring to all, and we hope that 2017 has gotten off to a great start for each of you! It is our goal to provide citizens, businesses, and visitors the highest quality of service. As such, we place a premium on effective community partnerships and we continually evaluate these partnerships. In doing so, we have come to recognize that many residents are still hesitant to contact Castle Hills Police upon observing something suspicious. A common sentiment being "we did not want to bother you all", or "we know you are too busy." Although true, we are busy, we do not want anyone to feel as though this a good reason for not reporting something. Our officers embrace these calls and welcome the opportunity to serve our community.

It is no secret that residents are more familiar with their neighborhoods within our community and maintain a vested interest in the safety and wellbeing of those areas. This attribute alone allows for our residents to be the first to recognize when something is amiss. You all are the eyes and ears when we are not present and a key component in facilitating police awareness. As such, it has never been more important, encouraged, and easy for residents to report suspicious activity.

A simple phone call to dispatch greatly compliments our efforts in this arena. Through timely and accurate reporting, we increase the likelihood for police action whether it be a field contact, deterred criminal activity, or an arrest. **Help us help you...make the call.** Thank you and stay safe.

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Wayne Davis
Chief, Castle Hills PD

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ANNIVERSARIES

15 years	Joe Hernandez	Fire Department
10 years	Glenda Olivier	Dispatch
5 years	Jousha Jahns	Fire Department
5 years	Jeremy Huffman	Fire Department
5 years	Cory Stewart	Fire Department
1 year	Raymond Castaneda	Police Department
1 year	Deborah Kitkowsky	Administration
1 year	Nathan Alcala	Police Department
1 year	Jeanette Ulmer	Public Works
1 year	Jose Govea	Administration

NEW EMPLOYEES

Alfred Mermea - Sanitation

Mosquito Borne Disease Control

Please check your yard for standing water to help reduce the breeding site for mosquitoes. Swimming pools must have functioning pool pumps, filters and have chemicals maintained to prevent mosquitoes from making your pool their home. Changes the water in pet bowls, birdbaths, and under potted plants every three days to the mosquito breeding cycle. Keeping your yard mowed and trimmed aids in reducing breeding sites.

Interesting Mosquito Facts

DEET is considered the 'gold standard' of mosquito repellents. Endorsed by the Centers for Disease Control (CDC), DEET doesn't mask the smell of the host or jam the insect's senses - mosquitoes simply don't like it because it smells bad to them. A product containing 10 percent DEET can protect you for up to 90 minutes. Two other repellents, picaridin and lemon-eucalyptus oil, have also proven effective and are now recommended by the CDC.

Bacteria can be used to kill mosquito larvae. *Bacillus thuringiensis israelensis* (Bti) is a commercially-produced bacteria, sold in pellet and powder form, which can be laced into water where larvae live. It produces proteins that turn into toxins after the larvae eat it.

Dark clothing attracts mosquitoes. Remember, they are drawn to heat and darker clothes retain more heat than light-colored clothing.

Insecticides work, but only in the short term. Permethrin, one of the most common chemicals used by local mosquito control programs, kills mosquitoes on contact by disrupting their central nervous systems. However, eggs and larvae often are not affected. Once the insecticide dissipates, mosquitoes can return.

Bats do not eat mosquitoes. At least, not very many of them. Mosquitoes make up less than 1 percent of a bat's diet. And purple martins, a bird popularly believed to be a mosquito predator, eat very few mosquitoes. They prefer dragonflies and other insects.

The two main mosquito predators are fish and dragonflies. Gambusia, or mosquitofish, feed on mosquito larvae and are used all over the world to help control mosquito populations. Dragonfly larvae, called nymphs, eat mosquito larvae, and adult dragonflies prey on adult mosquitoes. Some towns in Maine release dragonflies every summer as a natural form of mosquito control.

Bug zappers are useless against mosquitoes. Studies have shown that less than 1 percent of the insects killed by zappers are mosquitoes or other biting insects. The devices attract and kill beneficial or harmless insects, like moths, and have no effect on the overall mosquito population. Electronic repellents have also proven ineffective in scientific testing.

Sources: The American Mosquito Control Association; the U.S. Centers for Disease Control; the U.S. Department of Agriculture; and, entomology and agriculture departments at the University of California – Davis, Colorado State University, Rutgers University, University of Nebraska, and the University of Florida.

Are your eyes **dry, irritated or burning? Do you sometimes find it hard to focus your eyes when you have been reading or using the computer for a long time?**



You may be able to participate in a research study to evaluate the safety and effectiveness of an investigational eye drop for the signs and symptoms described above.

This study involves 4 Visits over 4 weeks

You may be eligible if:

- ✓ 18 or older
- ✓ In good health
- ✓ You are willing to refrain from using eye drops during the dosing period
- ✓ You are willing to refrain from using contact lenses during the dosing period
- ✓ Meet other requirements to participate in the study

Contact:

Patricia Martinez pmartinez@coronaresearch.net 210-541-0123

Study Conducted by: John F. Kozlovsky, MD

2929 Mossrock, Suite 104 San Antonio, Texas 78230



Corona Research Clinical Studies



COUNCIL MEETING

HIGHLIGHTS



January 3, 2017 – Special City Council Meeting

- Council met in executive session concerning pending and contemplated litigation regarding the property of Castle Hills First Baptist Church and BASIS Charter Schools, after reconvening no action was taken.
- City Council will consider and may take action to require traffic impact analyses for certain projects. The Council may adopt an ordinance amending Chapter 8, Buildings and Building Regulations, of the Code of Ordinances requiring traffic impact analyses for certain projects. – Motion was made by Councilmember Gregory to approve the Ordinance as read, seconded by Councilmember Daggett. Motion passed unanimously.

January 10, 2017 – Regular City Council Meeting

- Many Citizens spoke regarding the BASIS Charter School.
- Consent agenda was approved by Council.
- Shalimar Plat was approved – Motion made by Councilmember Daggett, seconded by Councilmember Squire. Motion passed unanimously.
- Architectural Review Committee recommendation regarding tree removal in conjunction with the construction of a new single family residence on the unimproved lot at 103 Hibiscus Lane, Castle Hills, Texas. Motion was made by Councilmember Gregory, seconded by Councilmember Daggett. Motion passed unanimously.
- An application from Mr. Yantis representing 6812 West, LLC regarding the construction of two office buildings and proposed signage. Motion was made by Councilmember Paul, seconded by Councilmember Daggett. Motion passed unanimously.
- Appointed a replacement to Board of Adjustment. Motion was made by Councilmember Daggett to appoint Conry Davidson, seconded by Councilmember Squire. Motion passed unanimously.
- A proposal for Audit Services from Armstrong Vaughan and Associates to conduct FY 2016 Annual City Audit and authorize the City Manager to sign an engagement letter. Motion was made by Councilmember Trevino to approve Armstrong Vaughan and Associates, seconded by Councilmember Paul. Motion passed unanimously.

February 6, 2017 – Special City Council Meeting (Town hall Meeting)

- Received presentation from BASIS Charter School for construction of school in the City of Castle Hills.
- Open discussion among those present about the school. No action was taken by the City Council or any other board present at the meeting.

February 14, 2017 – Regular City Council Meeting

- Consent agenda was approved by Council.
- City Council tabled the item to negotiate scope and fee proposal with the City Engineer for development of construction documents for drainage improvements on N. Manton Lane.
- Lewis Subdivision Plat at 212 Hibiscus Lane was approved – Motion made by Councilmember Daggett, seconded by Councilmember Paul. Motion passed unanimously.
- City Council unanimously approved Resolution No.R2017-02-14 approving the City of Castle Hills Certified Tax Roll for the year 2016.
- City Council unanimously approved Ordinance No.2017-02-14 calling a General Election for the City of Castle Hills to elect the Mayor and 2 Alderman.
- In response to a petition from residents, the City Council unanimously approved Ordinance No.2017-02-14A, the mandatory call for special election for the City of Castle Hills to consider a proposition regarding a property tax freeze for homeowners aged 65 and older, as well as disabled homeowners, as authorized by the Article VII, Section 1-b(h) Texas Constitution and Section 11.261 of the Texas Tax Code.
- City Council acknowledged receipt of the 2016 Fourth Quarter Investment Report.
- Mayor Howell will instruct the Master Plan Committee to include sidewalks and walk-ability in the overall master plan.

James E. Glasgow's 3-Day Real Estate Investors Wealth Seminar

March 24th, 25th, 26th 2017, San Antonio

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Smoke Alarm Safety Tips

As Spring approaches and daylight savings time begins, it is a great time to change the batteries in your smoke alarms when you change the time on your clocks.

The National Fire Protection Agency offers the following safety tips for smoke detectors. Smoke alarms are a key part of a home fire escape plan. When there is a fire, smoke spreads fast. Working smoke alarms give you early warning so you can get outside quickly.

SAFETY TIPS

- Install smoke alarms inside and outside each bedroom and sleeping area.
- Install alarms on every level of the home, including the basement.
- Large homes may need extra smoke alarms.
- It is best to use interconnected smoke alarms.
- When one smoke alarm sounds they all sound.

- Test all smoke alarms at least once a month. This is done by pressing and holding the test button to be sure the alarm is working.
- There are two kinds of alarms. Ionization smoke alarms are quicker to warn about flaming fires.
- Photoelectric alarms are quicker to warn about smoldering fires. It is best to use both types of alarms in the home.
- A smoke alarm should be on the ceiling or high on a wall. Keep smoke alarms away from the kitchen to reduce false alarms. They should be at least 10 feet (3 meters) from the stove.
- People who are hard-of-hearing or deaf can use special alarms. These alarms have strobe lights and bed shakers.
- Replace all smoke alarms when they are 10 years old.
- For these and other fire safety tips please visit the National Fire Protection website at www.nfpa.org



Chief Riedel
Castle Hills Fire Department



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6708 South Flores 78221
4114 West Commerce 78207





No matter what Fiesta Events you plan to attend you will be able to buy an endless variety of food and drink from more than a 1,000 temporary food vendors. Vendors will be offering a variety of foods ranging from traditional Tex-Mex and Fried Chicken to French Cuisine, Fried Alligator and Baked Oysters.

Food vendors operating during Fiesta need to take the time to follow food safety rules for preparing and serving safe food. Health inspectors typically check food vendor booths to make sure they are set up correctly. It's impossible to have a health inspector stationed at each food booth to ensure that sanitation rules are being followed all the time. Here are a few things you can check before you order that delicious looking tamale pie or fried catfish.

Hand Washing Station: Vendors should have a temporary handwashing station where workers can wash their hands before starting work; after taking a break to visit the restroom or take out the trash. If you spot food worker scratching their heads, arms or other parts of the body without washing their hands; think twice about trying that vendor.

Keeping Raw Food Separated from Ready-to-Eat Food: Food booths preparing and handling raw meats, fish and poultry need to keep the raw foods separated from the foods that are ready-to-eat. Some vendors will have designated workers handling only raw meats and other workers only handling cooked ready to eat products.

Temperature Control: Check to see if workers have food thermometers and are using them. This is especially important if you are ordering a hamburger for preschool child or grandchild. Hamburgers must be cooked to an internal temperature of 155 degrees F for at least 15 seconds. The only way to determine the internal temperature is to use a food thermometer.

Just checking these few simple things, before ordering from a food vendor can help you avoid a Fiesta Foodborne Illness. You should also keep track of the food vendors that you order from. If something does happen it will be a big help for public health workers in determining the guilty vendor.

Homer C. Emery, PhD, RS
City Health Inspector
Adjunct Instructor Food Science and Nutrition
Culinary Institute of America

New City Hall Administrative Office Hours

Beginning Monday, April 3, 2017 the Administrative Offices at City Hall will change office hours.

Administration – 7:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.

Permits – 7:30 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

Court – 7:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.

The new hours are designed to improve customer service for residents and contractors. Castle Hills wants to be part of the solution in reducing our carbon foot print by allowing employees the opportunity to travel to and from work avoiding peak traffic hours. This will help the San Antonio area achieve air quality attainment and enhances the quality of life for city employees.

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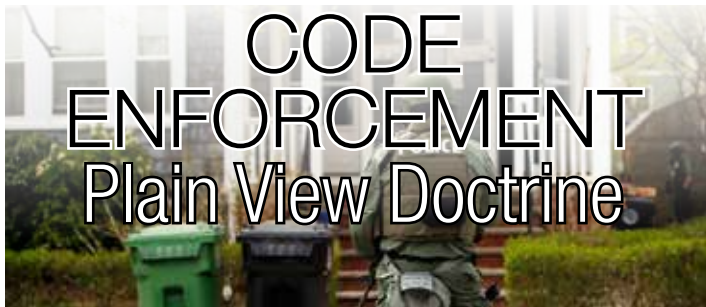
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John J. Nicolau MD
 Glaucoma and
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M. Coleman Driver Jr.,
 MD Retina Specialist



The Fourth Amendment to the United State Constitution provides that:

The right of the people to be secure in their persons, houses, papers and effects, against unreasonable searches and seizures, shall not be violated, and no Warrants shall issue, but upon probable cause, supported by Oath or affirmation, and particularly describing the place to be searched, and the persons or things to be seized.

Article I, Section 9 of the Texas Constitution contains language similar to the Fourth Amendment, again protecting from unreasonable search and seizures.

What is a search? A search is defined as an intrusion into an area covered by a reasonable expectation of privacy. Private areas are generally held to include houses, offices, rooms, cars, lockers, purses or a person's body. *Areas such as public streets and walkways, public areas or common areas, a person's physical characteristics, open fields and woods are not reasonably considered private.*

How do these rights impact the actions of code officials in the conduct of their duties? If a code official observes a violation of law while on routine patrol traveling on city streets or alleys, the violation is considered to be in "plain view". The code official is in a place where he or she has a right to be, and if the official sees or finds something connected to a crime or violation, then the official may seize the evidence or act on the violation with a Notice of Violation or court summons. This exception to a search warrant is based upon the idea that if anyone could have seen the evidence, there is no violation of any privacy interests by the official seeing the same evidence. This is the basis of the "Plain View Doctrine".

What if the violation is in someone's fenced backyard and is visible from the neighbor's second story window? The code official cannot use what they can observe from the neighbor's second story window as it does not fit the plain view doctrine. This scenario generates the question of how can this violation be corrected? The code official cannot use this view to generate a Notice of Violation or a court summons. The neighbor can file a complaint with the court as they have a right to be in their own residence and look out their windows. For the code official, this same view would constitute an unreasonable search.

The code official may go to the residence with the suspected violation and ask for consent to enter the property and make observations. The consent must come from a person with actual authority to give consent such as the property owner or a tenant on a lease for a rental property.

A further example is a gate or fence being left open leaving the backyard visible from the street or alley. This situation meets plain view doctrine. Peeking through the missing knot holes or the small gaps between the boards on the fence does not meet the standards of plain view. In the fall and winter when trees and bushes drop their leaves, areas of the city are now visible that may not be seen during full vegetation in the warmer months. The loss of leaves is not considered an unfair enhancement, so plain view doctrine applies if visible from a public place.

If you have a concern regarding a violation that you observe please feel free to report using the automated reporting system on the city website: www.cityofcastlehills.com by following the "How Do I" link or contact Jose Govea, at 293-9678.

Sources: United States Bill of Rights, Texas Constitution, and Local Governance at Its Finest by Honorable Bonnie L. Goldstein J.D.




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- 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.

We are so pleased to be offering this new service!

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



Fiesta Castle Hills – *Bringing Our Community Together for a Day of Fitness, Festivities, Food, and Fun!*

The 8th Annual Fiesta Castle Hills will be on Saturday, April 22, 2017. This family-friendly event grows more popular every year, is hosted at the Commons and features:

- 5K Fun Run/Walk at 8:00 a.m.;
- Community Parade at 10:00 a.m.;
- Fiesta Celebration from 11:30 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.
- Enjoy children's activities, music, food, arts and crafts and community booths;

Admission and parking are free. For more information, visit fiestacastlehills.org or call (210) 570-8654. Fiesta medals are available at city hall or at Fiesta Castle Hills.

Fiesta Castle Hills



JOINT GENERAL AND SPECIAL ELECTION **MAY 6, 2017**

April 24, 2017 – May 2, 2017

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
	April 24 8am-6pm	April 25 8am-6pm	April 26 8am-6pm	April 27 8am-6pm	April 28 Polls Closed	April 29 8am-6pm
April 30 Polls Closed	May 1	May 2	May 3	May 4	May 5	May 6 Election Day

The polling site for early voting is in the Community Room at city hall located at 209 Lemonwood Drive. For more information on polling sites please visit: <https://www.bexar.org/1568/Elections-Department>




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**Oak Trimming
Prohibited
February to July**

Oak trees of any type growing within the corporate limits of the City may not be trimmed during the months of February, March, April, May, and June due to the increased activity of the nitidulid beetles and the potential for the spread of oak wilt. Any branches posing an immediate threat of danger to persons or property may be trimmed during the prohibited months with the issuance of a special permit and the approval of the city manager. This change in the code became effective April 25, 2016.

CODE ENFORCEMENT SCRAMBLE

Unscramble the words.

1. NUJK HVEICEL _____
2. ANNTSATG OPOL _____
3. LLAT SAGRS _____
4. ISDERB _____
5. METTBENAA _____
6. CLIUBP WIVE _____
7. NOAITSTNAI _____
8. SOTDENR _____
9. TPNAELISE _____
10. EIDESMER _____
11. DAHARZ _____
12. UROCT NMSMSOU _____
13. EAOSDIMERMN _____
14. IONVCCINTO _____
15. NGBAIKR ODG _____

16. TIEPMR _____
17. SISOEQTOUM _____
18. RONCDAENI _____
19. RELTET _____
20. NUANCISE _____
21. VNIOOITLA _____
22. NSEIO LVLEE _____
23. OLSEO AILNMA _____
24. HLAETH _____
25. EYTAFS _____
26. NUPMDIG _____
27. CTIY DOCE _____

1. JUNK VEHICLE, 2. STAGNANT POOL, 3. TALL GRASS, 4. DEBRIS, 5. ABATEMENT, 6. PUBLIC VIEW, 7. SANITATION, 8. RODENTS, 9. PENALTIES, 10. REMEDIES, 11. HAZARD, 12. COURT SUMMONS, 13. MISDEMEANOR, 14. CONVICTION, 15. BARKING DOG, 16. PERMIT, 17. MOSQUITOES, 18. ORDINANCE, 19. LETTER, 20. NUISANCE, 21. VIOLATION, 22. NOISE LEVEL, 23. LOOSE ANIMAL, 24. HEALTH, 25. SAFETY, 26. DUMPING, 27. CITY CODE

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CITY SNAPSHOTS



The Castle Hills Woman's Club was recognized for their dedicated community outreach by NEISD at the Superintendent's Awards program. Pictured in the photo are, from L-R: Dr. Brian Gottardy, Bernie Barnes, Melissa McGuire, Faye West, Starr West, Leslie Weber, Denise Haley, & Susan Kilgore.

*Thank You
Castle Hills*

The response was outstanding for the 2016 Blue Santa toy drive and the Food Bank food donations. Many families had much happier holidays due to the overwhelming generosity of Castle Hills' residents who donated toys and food. Thank you for your willingness to help those in need. Together we make the world a better place.



Shweiki



Castle Hills Public Works employees tackle Spring clean-up and spruce up around the city with maintenance in the alleys, graffiti removal, and repairs to area roadways.

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