

July 2017



*The Castle Hills*

# Reporter

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# Message From the Mayor



*Tim Howell  
Mayor*

## We Are All Part Of A Bigger Picture

Castle Hills is a small city, but we are not an isolated island without neighbors. In fact, our geographically central location makes us a vital part of the greater San Antonio area. How we participate as a partner with San Antonio, Shavano Park, Alamo Heights, Hill Country Village and our other neighbors is important for the health, safety, and prosperity of all.

The council and staff continue participating in area wide organizations. The Metropolitan Planning Organization, the Bexar Regional Watershed Management Organization, and the San Antonio River Authority have an overall approach looking to the future to manage transportation and drainage issues. The City of Castle Hills must be a part of these plans and solutions. We also regularly communicate with the City of San Antonio Transportation and Capital Improvements Department, the Texas Department of Transportation, and VIA. Traffic in Castle Hills impacts these systems and vice versa.

The Castle Hills Fire Department has Mutual Aid agreements with area fire departments. If one of the fire departments needs additional equipment or manpower, other area fire departments respond through these pre-existing agreements. Mutual aid is not limited to fire departments, but is also practiced by the Castle Hills Police Department to assist with other law enforcement agencies. Public safety is first and foremost.

Castle Hills water and sewer services are provided by agreements with San Antonio Water System (SAWS). SAWS has more resources, manpower and political clout than a single small city can generate. SAWS represents our community's needs, and plans for our future with the South Central Texas Regional Water Planning Group - Region L, Texas Water Development Board and other state wide water planning initiatives.

Water, whether flowing down the street after a big rain or flowing out of the tap when you turn on your faucet is a major issue requiring long range planning and sometimes an immediate response. Joining together in partnerships with other communities and organizations gives us greater power. We will continue our partnerships to improve the potential for grant monies for some of the larger area wide infrastructure needs. There is strength in numbers and council and staff will continue to come to the table so the voice of Castle Hills is heard.

Castle Hills involvement does not end with our surrounding neighbors, but extends to Austin and to Washington D.C. We communicate with our elected officials to offer our concerns on state and federal legislation. Castle Hills strives to protect the autonomy and authority of small municipalities and the citizens we represent. Governor Abbott called for a special session of the legislature this summer, and we will continue to keep a watchful eye on the special session. We will make trips to Austin, speak at hearings, pass ordinances and resolutions, and send letters to the committees and representatives who need to know what is good for Castle Hills and our immediate area.

I invite you to visit the website for the specific dates for council meetings and workshops as we develop the FY2018 city budget. The budget is a labor of hard work, conservative economics, thoughtful discussions, and fiscal responsibility. The tax dollars entrusted to the city are spent with the utmost respect for the taxpayers who make Castle Hills possible. Alexander Hamilton in the Federalist Paper No. 35, penned in 1788 states:

"There is no part of the administration of government that requires extensive information and a thorough knowledge of the principles of political economy, so much as the business of taxation. The man who understands those principles best will be least likely to resort to oppressive expedients, or sacrifice any particular class of citizens to the procurement of revenue. It might be demonstrated that the most productive system of finance will always be the least burdensome."

I hope that through the voter approved property tax relief to our senior and disabled citizens, homestead exemptions and thoughtful budgeting, Castle Hills is heeding the advice of Alexander Hamilton as we set our tax rate and develop our budget.

Have a wonderful and safe summer. I hope to see you at one of the Castle Hills Community Organization concerts, or at a council meeting!

### Timothy A. Howell

Mayor City of Castle Hills Texas  
210-535-9094  
mayortimhowell@gmail.com

## CITY COUNCIL

Tim Howell  
Mayor

JR Treviño  
Mayor Pro Tem  
Place 1

Maretta Scott  
Place 2

Amy McLin  
Place 3

Frank Paul  
Place 4

Douglas Gregory  
Place 5, Treasurer

### CITY STAFF

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

Minerva Gonzales  
City Secretary, (210) 293-9681

Suzanne Riley  
Finance, (210) 293-9674

Darrell Dover  
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

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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  
1st Wednesday, 7:00pm  
Upon Request

Board of Adjustment  
3rd Monday, 5:30 p.m.  
Upon Request

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

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





## CITY ACTIVITY

By Curt Van De Walle, City Manager

When I sit down to write one of these articles for the "Reporter"; I always feel a little bit like Garrison Keillor narrating one of his episodes in his weekly "A Prairie Home Companion" radio show ... "Well, it's been a long, hot week here in Lake Wobegone (or Castle Hills, in this case) ..." So forgive me if I ramble a little, but there truly has been a lot going on in the City. That said, it has been hot, and the bad news is it's likely to get worse before it gets better here in Castle Hills!

The good news is Danube repaving will be completed by August 1st. Kudos to all the residents along that street who have been extremely patient as the project seems to drag on forever. We have been through the complete gamut on Danube, first realizing that the curbs were literally crumbling in places and not aligned to drain properly in others, leading to a proposal to replace the curbs. After that, the contractor had to go back and re-install a portion of the sewer main right before we were set to pave again, among other problems including the needed rain that fell near the end of June. Shortly that will all be behind us. The paving machines have rolled down Danube and the road and curbs will look fantastic. The contractor should finish up the punch list items from Phase IIB of the Streets Program over the next month--this includes Danube, Adobe, Gladiola, Krameria, Mimosa and both W. & E. Castle. If you live on one of those streets and have any items you would like addressed, please contact me and we will ensure they are dealt with appropriately.

On another positive note, we have already started work on Phase III of the Streets Program. This will be a full depth repair of most of Antler Drive and the section of Honeysuckle Lane South of 410, which hasn't yet been repaired. We have been working with SAWS for several months already and are reviewing a proposal from RPS Klotz Associates to perform the design work for that project. The City will pay only that portion of the project which entails replacing the road and curbs. SAWS will cover all the underground water and sewer infrastructure costs.

You might be wondering how the City chooses which streets to repair within a limited budget. Basically, it is informed by good data and goes through a stringent process. The city staff prioritizes repairs based on data which has been collected on our streets by Cartegraph, a well-respected firm who performed a 100% inventory of our streets in 2014 and update it every year. Consideration is given to road condition, amount of traffic, SAWS involvement, and type of repair, among other things. The Streets & Drainage Committee reviews that data and selects streets to repair, which are then presented to SAWS for consideration to synchronize our collective efforts (nobody wants to see a new street dug up shortly after installation to repair/replace sewer or water lines). The list is then forwarded to the Council for approval. Phase III includes full depth repair due to large scale subsurface failure of the road, as opposed to the mill and overlays of the previous phase, so unfortunately we will not be able to repair as many streets as the previous phases. In addition, we use a similar process to determine which roads need preventative maintenance (crack sealing or one of various types of seal coats) to further extend pavement life. Again, we always appreciate the input of residents, and receive them regularly.

In addition to streets, we are continuing to work on drainage issues for the City. We have engaged with the Bexar Regional Watershed Management (BRWM) Board in an effort to have San Antonio, Bexar County and the San Antonio River Authority recognize that many of the City of Castle Hills drainage issues are regional in nature, and we are growing a partnership to developing solutions to those problems. We are looking forward to a favorable report from the BRWM at the upcoming meeting in July. Additionally, we are reviewing

the design for changes to the low water crossings on North Manton Lane and the Banyan Drive drainage channel between Glentower and Tamworth to give some relief to those perennial problem areas.

While it seems old news now, the BASIS Charter School has found a new piece of property outside of Castle Hills to build their new school, and the City reached a settlement agreement with them regarding the property on S. Winston Lane. We all agree that BASIS is a world class school, but most residents felt it was a "square peg in a round hole" on a small road in one of our residential neighborhoods. Shortly after the agreement was signed, your City Council approved new ordinances in our building code which places more stringent traffic impact analyses requirements for new developments in Castle Hills, to include special Texas Transportation Institute recommendations for schools. I know that will come as welcome news to many of our residents who attended Townhall meetings, Architectural Review Committee and City Council meetings to voice their concerns. While it was a difficult time for our City, we emerged from it with better ordinances and no long term impact. It is now time to put that behind us and celebrate the community we live in!

Finally, I was fortunate to attend the Texas City Manager Association's Annual Conference in Austin in late June. It was very informative and uplifting to see so many dedicated to good governance of our Texas cities. The most powerful message brought, however, was the keynote speaker, Jimmy Wayne, who spoke of "The Power of One" to make a difference in another person's life. Jimmy is a successful country music star now, but he grew up in a very dysfunctional family, foster homes, and eventually to living homeless as a young teenager working odd jobs just to have money to eat. He wouldn't be successful today if it wasn't for an elderly lady and her husband, Bea and Russell, who offered to take him into their home and give him hope and an opportunity to realize his dreams. He now champions the cause of those in foster care. His overarching message is "Get involved in the life of one of these young people, even if just for an hour a week, it will make a difference." I immediately ordered his book, Walk to Beautiful: The Power of Love and a Homeless Kid Who Found His Way. It was on the NY Times Bestseller List, so it might be a good read for you this summer; just be careful, it might change your (and somebody else's) life!

So, that's the news from Lake Wobegone...or Castle Hills, as the case may be...as Garrison Keillor would say, "where all the women are strong, all the men are good-looking, and all the children are above average." Have a great summer and get involved!



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## Council Comments



*JR Trevino,*  
**Place 1**

Friends,

I hope that everyone has had a nice restful summer thus far. While things have been fairly quiet around the City we are working diligently to continue improving the City. A couple of notable projects that I wanted to touch base on were the Danube Street paving project, the VIA Transit Capital Improvements, and discussion of a neighborhood community area.

We can all agree that the Danube street project has run a little longer than we anticipated. The good news is by the beginning of August, it should be done and done right! The poor conditions of the curb gutters were something that City Manager, Mr. Curt Van De Walle brought to Council's attention. While it was an unforeseen additional expense; it's completion means that we do not risk damaging new asphalt in the future. I've noticed that the City is working to take the approach of doing it once and doing it right. While there are many streets that require attention, we are utilizing a point system that scales the condition. Once we have a scale on the condition we balance that with the amount of traffic the street typically receives.

VIA initially brought capital improvement plans before Council last year and they were unanimously approved. Last month Mr. Van De Walle, our Public Works Director, Mr. Rick Harrada, and myself sat down with some representatives from VIA Transit. Now that the plans have been further developed we are working to finalize a tentative start date. The plans consist of some new bus stops, concrete bus pads, and a crosswalk. Hopefully by next month we should have a firm start date.

With the onset of the summer heat we are all thinking of ways that we can cool down. One of those ways that has garnered attention is a community pool or park area. Many residents have taken to the social media site, NextDoor, to discuss ideas, wishes, and even opposition. While I think that a community area would be a great addition to our community, I'm very cognizant of our infrastructure needs. I believe that as long as we have drainage problems that present life safety issues, we cannot invest a substantial amount of City funds into a park or a pool area. By that same token, I don't think we should stop exploring our options. As I have discussed with some residents, there are alternative funding sources. While I am exploring on my end; please feel free to reach out to me with your ideas. If any of you all are familiar with grants that Castle Hills may qualify for, please reach out to me or other council members.

Enjoy what is left of your summer. 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



*Marettta Scott,*  
**Place 2**

Thank you to all the residents who participated in the election process in May. Castle Hills is a wonderful city, and I am eager to work on your behalf to continue the positive governance that keeps our city strong. I invite you to participate in the budget process by attending city council budget workshops and council meetings. The meeting dates and times are on the calendar on the home page of the city website. If you are unable to attend, but want to be informed please check the city website for recordings of the meetings on YouTube. The link is available on the city website home page by selecting "City Meeting Videos".

If you have specific ideas or concerns, please contact me or one of your other city council members and share your thoughts.

Respectfully,  
Marettta Scott  
Place 2  
mscott@cityofcastlehills.com



*Amy McLin,*  
**PLACE 3**

Thank you to everyone who took time and voted in this year's election! I consider it an honor that I was elected Alderman for the city.

I have spent the last month meeting with Department heads and others listening and asking questions; learning and thinking. When I get home there is more thinking, research, and planning. My potential project notebook is filling with large and small projects!

The City Council and Mayor are in the process of reappointing committees. If you have a passion, a hobby, or a special skill that would help our city plan for the future, please let me know. My contact information is below.

Sincerely,  
Amy M. McLin  
Alderman Place 3  
P: 210.319.4488 Ext. 102 F: 210.319.4444 E: amclin@cityofcastlehills.com

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*Frank Paul,*  
**PLACE 4**

### **ROAD CONSTRUCTION IN CASTLE HILLS**

I am sure that most in the city know that we started the repair of our streets in 2014 and every year since then have been dedicating a portion of the City budget to improve our roads.

This type of work is the first in our city's history. The problem is that many of the streets are too far gone and need more than just an overlay. We have also partnered with SAWS to repair or replace any lines that are a problem. By working with SAWS, it keeps the street from being torn up twice.

Unfortunately, working with SAWS also extends the timeframe on getting the job completed. A case in point is the recent repairs on Danube. We have been on that project since last October. Unforeseen problems will always occur.

SAWS had problems with the water lines on Danube. The city also put in new curbs when it was brought to City leadership's attention that approximately one quarter of the existing curbs were damaged and crumbling beyond repair and would have to be replaced. To repair the entire curb versus just the damaged sections only cost the City twice what it would cost to replace the one quarter which were damaged, so in light of this information your elected leadership decided to invest a little extra and get a product all residents would be proud of. Following that, the the sewer lines were televised and they found additional issues with the joints in the line that needed to be repaired.

The lines were videotaped again on June 9th and then analyzed. The lines were reviewed and approved by SAWS on June 12, 2017, which allows paving operations to begin. Weather permitting and no other unforeseen complications, this project should wrap up by the end of July.

We are currently in discussions with SAWS and RPS Klotz regarding the next phase of our Streets Program, the paving of Antler Drive and the southern portion of Honeysuckle Lane. If all goes well, that work should begin in early 2018.

The city appreciates all of our resident's patience and understanding. Once we start a project, the contractor is not pulled off. There's an old saying that goes, "You've got to break a few eggs to make an omelet." In the case of the road project on Danube, our residents are about to get a breakfast feast, with new water lines, new sanitary sewer lines, new curbs and a brand new road!

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



*Douglas Gregory,*  
**PLACE 5**

This past May, Castle Hills voters went to the polls to decide whether to freeze property taxes or not for homeowners 65 years of age and up and/or those who are legally handicapped. I and other supporters of this initiative spent many hours gathering the required signatures for a petition in order for you to decide this question. After all the votes were tallied, the proposition passed by 74.49%.

If you fit in either of the two qualifiers for the exemption, the freeze immediately goes into effect. If you are listed as the homeowner with the Bexar Appraisal District, they should already have your age on record and nothing more needs to be done. If they do not have your date of birth then you must fill out a homeowner's application and provide a copy of your driver's license or a valid Texas ID. For further information, you can reach the Bexar Appraisal District as below:

Bexar Appraisal District  
411 N. Frio, P.O. Box 830248  
San Antonio, TX 78283-0248  
Phone: (210)224-2432 Fax: (210)242-2453 Email: [www.bcad.org](http://www.bcad.org)

In July, our City Manager has the responsibility to hammer together a budget for FY 2018 then present it to the City Council for review and approval. One thing is certain, continued investment in our infrastructure will continue to the tune of around \$1,000,000. As the new Chairman of the Streets and Drainage Committee, among other things, I expect Committee members to have ideas on establishing, with Council approval, a new multi-year timetable for future construction projects.

I want to welcome Maretta Scott and Amy McLin as newly elected members of our City Council. I look forward to hearing their point of view on many subjects. There is a serious responsibility that comes with service on the Council and at times it can be quite fulfilling. Welcome aboard!

Finally, summer can be full of lazy days but if you have the notion, call me with any questions, concerns or in need of help at 342-5442. Take in a City Council Meeting, Board Meeting or workshop; they might provide the best summer entertainment in town!

Respectfully,  
Councilman Gregory

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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."*



## CODE ENFORCEMENT

I hope you all enjoyed a happy July 4th! First of all, thanks to all of our active duty & veteran military members and our law enforcement professionals for continuing to keep us free and safe.

I want to continue to discuss swimming pool maintenance. There is a sharp uptick in complaints about so-called "green pools." For this reason, code enforcement for this violation will need to increase so we can get a handle on this situation. This enforcement may include, up to, this office seeking administrative warrants to enter upon private property to determine the level of threat a green pool poses to public health and safety. The obvious solution; clean your pool. If you cannot clean or (legally) empty stagnant water, please deploy either mosquito "dunks" or mosquito fish/frogs in the pool and show proof to this office, particularly if you get a door hanger or a Notice of Violation.

The next issue I would like to discuss is that of low hanging tree limbs above streets, sidewalks and alleyways. The code states that a 12-foot clearance shall exist between the surface of public right-of-ways and tree limbs. Please cut/prune low limbs and eliminate damage to large city vehicles or injury to civil servants who are here to help you.

Lastly, I would like to advise everyone that over the course of the next few months, several departments will be identifying addresses whose street numbers are not clearly visible from the roadway AND alleyways (if applicable). This is a code violation. We all need to work together as a community and ensure that our emergency personnel are in a position to help you, the citizen.

As always, if you feel that the Code enforcement process is moving too slow for your liking, please feel free to file a complaint for a court date against your neighbor with Municipal Court. Thanks for your time. Working together, we can help each other to live in a healthy safe community.

Luis Zamarron  
Code Compliance Officer

## CONGRATULATIONS

Greetings citizens,

I just want to take a quick minute and recognize Captain Johnny Siemens for graduating from the most sought after and highly competitive law enforcement training academy in the nation. On June 7, 2017 Captain Siemens graduated from the 268th session of the FBI National Academy in Quantico, Virginia. This was an intense 10-week program where he lived with, studied with, and trained with over 250 other law enforcement executives from around the world. He was also surrounded by our premier military officers and FBI Agents in training. No, he will not be leaving us but instead he will bring back the latest trends and global perspective in today's law enforcement.

Officer David Fawcett was accepted to the Texas DPS physical fitness training class, which is a six week program designed to assist departments in implementing a standard fitness program for their agencies. Additionally, he will learn leading trends and physical fitness techniques to bring back to our agency and implement. Physical fitness in law enforcement has never been more important.

In June, Corporal Jose Davila completed the FBI Law Enforcement Executive Development Association (LEEDA) training. Corporal Davila is the ninth Castle Hills officer to graduate from this prestigious LEEDA program. The Castle Hills Police Department hosts the training for the greater San Antonio area and in turn is allowed to enroll officers in the training at no cost.

So, the next time you see Captain Siemens, Officer Fawcett, or Corporal Davila congratulate them on representing our city and law enforcement as a whole. I am very proud of the caliber of law enforcement officers who serve the citizens of Castle Hills. We work hard to stay cutting edge on education and trends in law enforcement.



Wayne Davis  
Chief, Castle Hills PD



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# COUNCIL MEETING

## HIGHLIGHTS



### April 25, 2017 – Special City Council Meeting

- Council met in executive session with the city attorneys regarding a proposal from Basis Schools relating to the lease with Castle Hills First Baptist Church and its application for site review. After reconvening, a motion was made by Councilmember Squire to approve the settlement agreement and release of claims and authorize the City Manager to sign the agreement, seconded by Councilmember Trevino. The motion passed 4-1.
- City Attorney Henry read the settlement agreement in its entirety. Basis agreed to never build a permanent school in any residential neighborhood in the City of Castle Hills. Basis will work with the City to address traffic during their temporary lease with the First Baptist Church.

### May 1, 2017 – Special City Council Meeting

- Council met in executive session with the city attorneys to discuss traffic impacts on residential streets by large institutions. After reconvening, a motion was made by Councilmember Squire to approve Ordinance 2017-05-01 to amend certain sections of Chapter 8 of the Code or Ordinances which regulate traffic impacts, seconded by Councilmember Daggett. Motion passed unanimously.

### May 9, 2017 – Regular City Council Meeting

- Recognized Chief Darrell Dover as the Castle Hills Fire Chief.
- Recognized St. George Episcopal School for their 1st place float in the Fiesta Battle of the Flowers Parade.
- Resident Judy Crawford addressed the council during Citizens to be Heard asking to donate a "Little Library" for placement in the Commons.
- Consent Agenda – Mayor Howell tabled the April 11, 2017 Special and Regular City Council meeting minutes. Councilmember Paul moved to accept the Treasurer's Report and the acknowledgment of receipt of the 2017 First Quarter Investment Report, seconded by Councilmember Gregory. Motion passed unanimously.
- Motion was made by Councilmember Squire, seconded by Councilmember Daggett to re-appoint Judge Harold McCall as the Castle Hills Municipal Court Presiding Judge. Motion was amended by Councilman Squire to also include Richard Loza, Al Berseno and Matthew Gossen as presiding judge alternates. Motion passed unanimously.
- During the Public Hearing numerous citizens spoke against the removal of trees for the replacement staircase at Antonian College Preparatory Center for Academic Excellence. Motion was made by Councilmember Daggett, seconded by Councilmember Squire to send this application back to ARC for prompt consideration and accelerate the process as much as possible. Motion passed unanimously.
- Motion was made by Councilmember Daggett, seconded by Councilmember Gregory to send the application for the removal of eight oak trees back to ARC for prompt consideration and Council requested the city accelerate the process as much as possible. Motion passed unanimously.
- Resident Jackie Ackley spoke at the Public Hearing for the application by David Lewis for the removal of trees for the construction of a new residence at 105 Hibiscus Lane. Motion was made by Councilmember Squire, seconded by Councilmember Daggett to approve the removal of 12 trees for construction of a new home at 105 Hibiscus Lane as recommended by the Architectural Review Committee. Motion passed unanimously.
- City Manager Van De Walle presented the recommendation of the Streets & Drainage Committee which met on May 4, 2017, regarding Phase III of the Streets Program. The recommendation is to perform a full depth repair of portions of Antler Drive. Work will be performed as a part of an Interlocal Agreement with SAWS. Motion was made by Councilmember Gregory, seconded by Councilmember Daggett to approve the recommendations from the Street and Drainage Committee. Motion passed unanimously.
- Motion was made by Councilmember Gregory, seconded by Councilmember

Paul to approve Ordinance No. 2017-05-09 amending Chapter 8, Buildings and Building regulations regarding when a traffic impact analysis is required. Motion passed unanimously.

- Motion was made by Councilmember Daggett, seconded by Councilmember Paul to approve Resolution No. R2017-05-09 in support of legislation that would amend section 12.103(c) and add subsections (D), (E) and (F) of the Texas Education Code. Motion passed 4 to 1. With Councilmember Gregory abstaining.
- Council met in executive session with the city attorneys to conduct a performance evaluation of the City Manager. After reconvening, a motion was made by Councilmember Daggett, to authorize the Mayor to negotiate the contract with the City Manager with the terms set forth and to execute the contract, seconded by Councilmember Squire. Motion passed unanimously.

### June 13, 2017 – Regular City Council Meeting

- Mayor Howell presented a proclamation to Mr. & Mrs. Robert Mecke recognizing the Muscular Dystrophy Association "Fill the Boot" program.
- Mayor Howell congratulated Deputy Court Clerk Vicki Beaver for receiving her TMCEC certification Level 1.
- Mayor Howell recognized retiring fire department Captain DeHart for his 36 years of service, and provided him with a resolution that thanked him for his commitment to the City of Castle Hills residents.
- Mayor Howell recognized Captain Johnny Siemens for his hard work and graduation from the FBI National Academy Session 268 (FBINA).
- Mayor Howell recognized Corporal Davila for his hard work in graduating from the FBI LEEDA training course.
- Motion was made by Councilmember Paul, seconded by Councilmember Gregory, to approve the consent agenda with Councilmember McLin's corrections to the minutes. Motion passed unanimously.
- Motion was made by Councilmember Paul, seconded by Councilmember Gregory to approve the FY 2016 Audit as submitted. Motion passed unanimously.
- A Public Hearing was held regarding the request by Antonian College Preparatory High School for tree removal for stairwell replacement. Motion was made by Councilmember Gregory, seconded by Councilmember Trevino to approve the application from Antonian. Motion passed unanimously.
- A Public Hearing was held regarding the request by Antonian College Preparatory High School for the proposed replacement staircase for the Antonian College Preparatory Center for Academic Excellence. Motion was made by Councilmember Trevino, seconded by Councilmember McLin to approve the application from Antonian. Motion passed unanimously.
- Motion was made by Councilmember Paul, seconded by Councilmember Scott to pass Ordinance No. 2017-06-13A amending Chapter 44, Traffic and Vehicles adding stop signs at the intersection of Gladiola and Bluet Lane. Motion passed 4 to 1.
- Motion was made by Councilmember Trevino, seconded by Councilmember Paul to approve the Ordinance No. 2017-06-13B amending Chapter 44, Traffic and Vehicles, by adding no left turns from the parking lot at 2220 Northwest Military Highway onto South Winston Lane. Motion passed unanimously.
- Mayor appointed JR Trevino as Mayor Pro Tempore.
- Mayor appointed Douglas Gregory as City Treasurer.
- ARC appointments: Jack Joyce, Chair; Barry Middleman; Juan Solis; David Kilgore; Matthew Daggett. ARC – Alternate: Jason Scott.
- BOA appointments: Tom Reichenberger, Chair; Bonnie Hopke; Brother William Dooling; Bruce Smiley-Kaliff; Walter Beuhler. BOA – Alternate: Jackie Ackley
- Zoning appointments: Zoning Members: Joe Izbrand, Chair; Jana Baker; Tom Akin; Mike Flinn; Scott Gray. Zoning – Alternates: Tom Fentress; Don Rochelle.
- CCPD appointments: Glenn Cross; Tom Hurst.



# Be Air Aware: Make a Commitment to Idle Less



Idling is leaving a vehicle's engine on while the vehicle isn't moving. The Alamo Area Council of Governments is asking Greater San Antonio Area residents to reduce idling this summer when possible, because it wastes fuel and pollutes the air.

## Facts about idling

- Two minutes spent idling is equivalent to one mile of driving in terms of gasoline used.
- Idling a vehicle for 10 seconds wastes more fuel than restarting it.
- Excessive idling can damage cylinders, spark plugs, and exhaust systems.
- Restarting a car has little impact on its battery or starter motor.
- Burning just one gallon of gas produces twenty pounds of pollutants.

## Reasons to reduce idling

- **Protect health** - Vehicle engines emit gasses that form ozone, a component of smog. Exposure to ozone can cause difficulty or painful breathing, and even permanent lung damage. Although everyone is susceptible to ozone pollution, children, people with respiratory conditions, and those who are active outdoors are at an increased risk.
- **Save money on gasoline** - Owners of an average four-cylinder sedan would save 32 gallons of gas and \$64 every year by reducing idling by eight minutes per day, while owners of an average eight-cylinder SUV or truck would save 64 gallons of gas and \$128 a year.

## How to reduce idling

- **Skip the drive-thru lane** - Park and go inside instead! According to a study by QSR Magazine, drive-thru lunch orders take an average of 214 seconds, while drive-thru dinner orders typically take 226.
- **Turn off your car when waiting** - Whether you're waiting to pick up your child from school or sitting in the parking lot before work, turn off your vehicle. Just roll down your windows if it's hot, or switch to "accessory" mode if you want to listen to the radio.
- **Avoid peak traffic times** - The worst times for traffic congestion are between 8-9 a.m. and 5-6 p.m. You're more likely to idle in traffic during these times, wasting both gas and money. If possible, run errands at another time. If you regularly commute to work or school during these times, consider working with your employer to change your schedule.

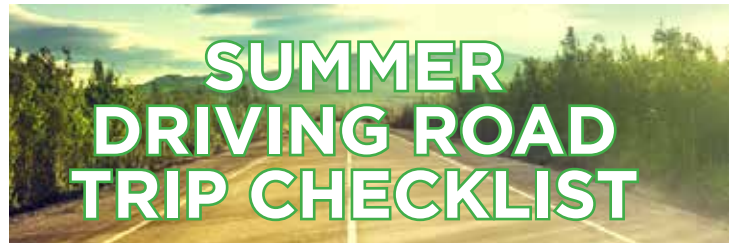
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Now that the summer season is upon us, many people are planning vacations. Driving to a destination is a common occurrence, so be proactive – not reactive – towards safety while planning a road trip. Help everyone enjoy themselves and stay safe.

## Before you leave:

- Check your route: make note of possible construction zones and distances between cities, towns, and rest stops.
- Check the weather: make note of predicted rain, wind, and high temperatures.
- Check your car: tires, battery, lights, wipers, A/C, etc. should all be in good condition and working well. If not, get it fixed before getting on the road.
- Have an emergency roadside kit ready and in the car: cell phone charger, first aid kit, jumper cables, flashlight, and duct tapes are some of the recommended items. For a more comprehensive list, go to Edmunds.com
- Don't overload your vehicle!

## On the road:

- Stay cool: heat can make people cranky, or even aggressive.
- Stay alert: be mindful of accidents, construction zones, and other drivers around you.
- Minimize distractions that may cause the driver to take their eyes off the road.
- Take regular breaks and give all passengers a chance to get out and stretch.
- Have sunglasses handy to help minimize glare, and be careful if you're driving during sunrise or sunset, especially if you are driving facing the sun.
- Don't drive tired: switch drivers regularly if possible, or pull over and rest if necessary
- Pay attention when driving at night: use headlights, and stay aware of what's going on around your vehicle.

Have a fun and relaxing road trip and enjoy your vacation!

*Tina & Vicki, Castle Hills Municipal Court Clerks*

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# CITY SNAPSHOTS



Captain Harold DeHart accompanied by his family is presented a Resolution for his 36 years of service as a fireman with the Castle Hills Fire Department.



Mayor Howell and the City Council thank Captain Harold DeHart for his dedicated service to the community.



Minerva Gonzales is sworn in by Mayor Howell as the City Secretary. Stop by and welcome Ms. Gonzales to Castle Hills!



Corporal Davila is recognized by Mayor Howell and the city council for successfully completing the FBI Law Enforcement Executive Development Association training program.



Mayor Howell congratulates Deputy Court Clerk Vicki Beaver for completing the Court Certification Level 1 through Texas Municipal Court Education Center.



Diana Apolinar, the General Manager at the recently opened Brewingz On The Fly cuts the grand opening ribbon with Mayor Howell. They are joined by corporate and store representatives of Brewingz On The Fly, members of the city council, city staff and restaurant guests.



The Castle Hills Community Organization hosted an End of School party in the Commons on the last day of school. Students from across the community joined in the fun with bounce houses, waterslide, soccer kick, and refreshments.



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# Low Hanging Limbs

Hello Everyone!

After recent storms during the spring, we discovered many of the trees in the city have limbs hanging over the roadways with less than the twelve foot clearance as required by city code Sec. 43-137(b). We have beautiful trees that add to the aesthetics of our great neighborhoods, but with low hanging limbs it makes it very difficult for our fire trucks to navigate the streets. This can lead to slower response times in emergencies, as well as the potential to damage the fire trucks themselves.

Beginning in July, the Fire Department along with Code Compliance will begin notifying homeowners of low hanging limbs that fall below the required twelve foot mark over the roadways.

- A twelve foot clearance must be maintained under all weather conditions over any sidewalk, curb, roadway or pavement.
- Please trim/remove low branches overhanging onto the right-of-way.
- A permit is required when trimming branches, and may be obtained at city hall. The permit office can be reached at 210-293-9675.
- Please paint any cut or injury on oak trees within one hour of trimming.
- Remove cuttings within 48 hours upon completion of work which may require notification of public works to arrange removal of the bulk trimmings. Public Works may be reached at 210-293-9676.

Failure to maintain the proper clearance may result in a court summons being issued for an appearance in municipal court and may result in fines or other penalties. We greatly appreciate your cooperation, and please do not hesitate to call us, if we can be of any assistance. We hope you have a safe and fun summer!



Darrell Dover  
Fire Chief



Greetings from the Castle Hills Woman's Club. Since its founding in 1952, the Castle Hills Woman's Club has been a multigenerational collaboration of dedicated women who have contributed their time and talents toward countless civic, charitable and social projects in the City of Castle Hills.

We are currently off for the summer but we will resume once again in September. We will be working over the summer planning programs that are both enjoyable and informative. Our current motto is "Good Works. Good Friends. Good Times."

If you are interested in obtaining more information about joining our wonderful club or have any other questions, please feel free to email me at [barnesrus@sbcglobal.net](mailto:barnesrus@sbcglobal.net).

Bernie Barnes  
President - CHWC



Interested in joining the  
Castle Hills Woman's Club?

Please send an email to  
[castlehillswomansclub@gmail.com](mailto:castlehillswomansclub@gmail.com).



## Shop CASTLE HILLS

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10 years

Rose Cortes

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5 years

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Police Department

1 year

Demitrius Cirilo

Dispatch

## NEW EMPLOYEES

Luis Zamarron Administration

Nicole Bane Part time Dispatch

Minerva Gonzales Administration

Michael Kelly Fire Department

## RETIRING EMPLOYEES

Fire Captain Harold DeHart retired on June 30, 2017 after 36 years and 5 months with the Castle Hills Fire Department. Thank you Captain DeHart for your dedicated service to the community.

## PROMOTIONS

Fire Lieutenant Justin Garcia promoted to Fire Captain.

Fire Fighter Jeremy Huffman promoted to Fire Lieutenant.

Castle Hills, TX

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## HEALTH

### Are You Ready to Grill?

Are you ready to grill this summer? Before you answer that question, you might want to check to make sure you have enough LP Gas and/or charcoal. At the same time, check to see if you have all the cutting boards, spatulas, tongs and other items you need. If you only have one cutting board or spatula you may want to buy a couple more. Use one for cutting and prepping raw meats and the other one for slicing cooked meats.

Since the 1992 foodborne illness outbreak caused by undercooked hamburgers contaminated with E. coli bacteria served at Jack in the Box restaurants located in the NW states, the hazards of consuming undercooked hamburgers have been known. Pre-school age children and the elderly are at a higher risk of foodborne illness should only be served hamburgers that have cooked to 155 degrees F for 15 seconds.

Foodborne illnesses caused by toxin producing strains of E. coli occur each year. More than 2,000 hospitalizations and 52 deaths involving kidney failure have occurred due to undercooked hamburger patties.

The single best way to prevent illness caused by E. coli bacteria is by cooking hamburger patties to a minimum internal temperature of 155 degrees F for at least 15 seconds. When checking for spatulas, tongs, scrapers, skewers, knives, forks and other accessories --DON'T FORGET THE MEAT THERMOMETER. A meat thermometer is the only way you can defeat toxic producing strains of E. coli bacteria that may be lurking in your raw and undercooked hamburger patties. Have a fun and food-safe summer; and use a meat thermometer; especially, when grilling hamburgers for your kids or your grandkids.

Homer Emery, City Health Inspector

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# PUBLIC WORKS



Hello Castle Hills,

Public Works would like to remind all residents of some simple ways to improve the efficiency and safety for the city sanitation workers. Chapter 36 of city codes offers insight in the proper ways to dispose of your household waste. The definitions state:

## *Sec. 36-1. - Definitions.*

Garbage means and includes refuse, kitchen and household waste of all kinds, food scraps, food containers, ashes, tin cans, glass, paper, trash, and, in addition, all other substances capable of causing noxious odors.

Trash means and includes anything other than household garbage and landscape debris. The term "trash" does not include building materials, debris resulting from building or repair activities, motor oil, or hazardous chemicals.

The city does not provide containers for trash pick-up as we do not have automated service. Our sanitation workers must manually carry to the sanitation truck your discarded garbage and trash. The following describes the type of containers that are approved.

## *Sec. 36-29. - Containers.*

(a) Garbage containers shall be a water tight receptacle of a solid and durable grade of metal or plastic, not to exceed 32 gallons in capacity. The combined weight of the container and its contents shall not exceed 40 pounds.

(b) The container shall be provided with suitable lifting handles and a close-fitting cover of metal or plastic equipped with its own handle. The container must not have any inside bands, reinforcing angles, or anything to prevent the free discharge of the contents.

(c) Containers that have deteriorated, or that have been damaged to the extent of having jagged or sharp edges capable of causing injury to collectors, or have covers that will not fit securely, shall be condemned by the city. If such containers are not replaced after a ten-day notice to the owner or user, to be evidenced by certified mail, of their defective condition, such containers shall be abated as a public nuisance by being removed as if garbage.

Please be sure to bag and tie closed garbage that you are throwing away. This helps keep animals away from your trash and keeps your trash containers clean and less likely to be a breeding ground for insects. A sealed bag is more efficient to get into the sanitation truck than loose garbage that is stuck due to spills inside the trash containers. The code addresses this problem in Section 36-30:

## *Sec. 36-30. - Placement of waste for collection; container storage.*

(a) Every owner, agent, lessee, tenant, or occupant of any single family or duplex residential dwelling in the city shall provide one or more containers of the type required in this article as may be required to adequately handle all garbage originating thereat, and to regularly set out such garbage collection.

(b) The collector shall not service more than the equivalent of three 32-gallon garbage cans during any one call to one location. Garbage collection service shall be provided at such times as are established from time to time by the city council.

(c) Garbage must be placed in the approved containers and must be bagged. Bags not containing garbage can be placed next to the container. All bags must be tied. All boxes and cartons shall be broken down and may not exceed 40 pounds in weight.

(d) Containers shall be set out in the alley, where there is one, or be placed so as to be easily accessible to the collector from the street where there is no alley. Garbage containers shall not be placed curbside or in the right-of-way for collection earlier than 6:00 p.m. the day before collection day.

(e) After a garbage container has been emptied by the city it shall be removed from the right-of-way of a street at the earliest possible time on the same day of collection and returned to an area of storage on private property not readily visible from the street. Garbage containers may be placed or stored in the alley abutting the property in an orderly manner so as to not block the alley.

The Castle Hills sanitation employees work hard to provide you the best possible service at the best possible price. By following the code, it is easier, more cost efficient, healthier, and safer for us to achieve our mission. Thank you for your cooperation in keeping Castle Hills clean and safe. If you have additional questions regarding sanitation, please check out the Public Works pages on the Castle Hills website: [www.cityofcastlehills.com](http://www.cityofcastlehills.com)

Rick Harada  
Director of Public Works  
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