

September 2017



The Castle Hills

Reporter



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Message From the Mayor



*Tim Howell
Mayor*

If you have been following the calendar on the City of Castle Hills website you will see that the city council has been very busy with budget workshops, public hearings, and extra city council meetings. The business of the city is on an uptick due to changes in state legislation, infrastructure projects, and development projects just to name a few. Often, city council meetings last 3 or more hours. Citizens, council and staff grow weary at these marathon meetings. At the August 8th city council meeting, the council voted to meet twice a month instead of just once a month. The meetings will fall on the second and fourth Tuesday of each month. On even months, (February, April, June, August, October and December) the meetings will be regular action meetings. On the odd months, (January, March, May, July, September, and November) the meetings will be work sessions. The extra meetings will allow the city to conduct business more expediently and hopefully reduce the length of city council meetings.

The budget for FY 2018 is once again a conservative budget that allows the city to function within our means. In other words, we have developed a budget that provides for repairs and maintenance for city infrastructure, plans for replacement of durable goods, provides a living wage for city employees, and does so within a balanced budget. At present, Castle Hills has no outstanding debt. As financial guru Dave Ramsey would say "We're Debt Free!!!" This is a very unique position for a municipality or any type of government. There may come a day when an infrastructure need is of the magnitude that we must utilize outside funds, but until then we will think strategically to optimize our resources.

The Mayor's Picnic was a tremendous success. The residents and guests of Castle Hills had an opportunity to learn safety information, socialize with neighbors, and enjoy the "variety show" of special guest and performances. It was a typical hot August day, but despite the heat everyone enjoyed the great brisket, hot dogs, and mac and cheese prepared by Castle Hill's Official Cher - Chefski, Michael Skibitcky, Dean of the HEB Culinary Academy and Farmers Insurance. Rose Cortez, a city staff member provided special treats for all. It felt like a good old fashion hometown picnic. I send special thanks to all who attended, provided sponsorship, and the wonderful Castle Hills staff who planned and implemented the event.

I look forward to the many block parties planned for October 3rd, National Night Out. NNO is a terrific opportunity for neighbors to build stronger neighborhoods. Neighbors who know each other keep an eye out for each other. This helps keep criminals away from neighborhoods, and increases the likelihood for neighbors to call the police if they see something that looks different or out of place. It is these small actions that can lead to the prevention of crime and the arrest of criminals. The council, city staff and I will be out in full force to visit your neighborhood. Thank you all for participating in your community!

I know that you are beginning to see Christmas holiday items in the stores (even before Halloween), so it is not too early to ask you to mark your calendars for the annual Lighting of the Lights on December 5th. Santa will be in the Commons for the lighting of the community tree. Rumor is there will be snow!!!

If you ever have concern, comment, or a suggestion, please contact me or one of the council members and we will gladly try our best to assist you. Please visit the city website, follow us on Facebook, and on NextDoor for information and dates of upcoming events.

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

TBD
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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POLICE CALL 911

Non-emergency (210) 342-2341

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

City Council
2nd and 4th Tuesdays, 6:30 p.m.
Architectural Review Committee
1st Wednesday, 7:00pm
Upon Request

Board of Adjustment
4th Monday, 5:30 p.m.
Upon Request

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

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



BIG DOINGS!

By Curt Van De Walle, City Manager

When I was growing up, whenever somebody was up to something of significance it was referred to as “Big Doings.” As a first year City Manager these are the words that come to mind as I consider the path we’ve been down over the past couple of months putting together the Fiscal Year 2018 Budget, which, if all goes well, will be approved by Council at the September 12th Council meeting at 6:30 pm in City Hall. I won’t bore you with all the intricate details of building the budget, but this year we’ve taken a real collaborative approach with the staff and Council to ensure we deliver a budget which is fiscally responsible and meets all the needs of the citizens of Castle Hills.

The city’s operating revenues for 2018 are projected to increase by \$100,000, or 10% for increased local sales taxes and state shared revenues. Likewise, the Bexar County Tax Assessor Collector informs us that our property taxes will increase 6.63% overall for a dollar amount of \$212,994.52. The overall revenue increase from these and other sources will be 5.68%. The city’s General Fund operating uses are expected to increase \$194,915.86, or 2.78% over the FY 2017 adopted budget. While these figures may change slightly during the remainder of the budget process, they currently represent a tighter budget from Fiscal Year 2017, and that should not change. You can find the proposed budget posted on the City of Castle Hills website at www.cityofcastlehills.com.

I can’t thank the staff enough for their hard work during the budget process, also as the Mayor and City Council, whose invaluable direction is key in allocating resources to meet the needs of our residents.

And speaking of “Big Doings,” we continue to make forward progress in jointly addressing our drainage problems in Castle Hills with the City of San Antonio (COSA). City staff has met on several occasions with the Bexar Regional Watershed Management Board. They recognized that the Castle Hills drainage problem is regional in nature and needs to be addressed as such. Subsequently, I met with the COSA Assistant Director for Stormwater and we have both committed to removing city boundaries and looking at the entire system for a solution. This will accommodate all municipalities that are impacted by the watersheds which run through Castle Hills. As I’ve told many people, the engagement on our drainage with San Antonio, Bexar County and the San Antonio River Authority is a long term endeavor. We have gained some momentum for a joint solution and are moving in the right direction.

One other “Big Doing”, which deserves mention, is the upcoming National Night Out on October 3rd. National Night Out is a community-police awareness-raising event in the United States. Most states hold this event in August, but the State of Texas holds it the first Tuesday of October to beat the heat. More than that, it is an opportunity for neighbors to come together at “block parties” to fellowship together. The Mayor, Members of Council, and city staff make the rounds to join in on the fun. Keep your eye on the city’s website for opportunities to participate.

I approach this National Night Out with some sense of distress as we will be saying goodbye to our beloved Police Chief, Wayne Davis. Chief Davis has been with the Castle Hills Police Department for 17 years, serving the last 5 years as Chief. He will retire effective October 6th, and we wish him the absolute best in his future endeavors. While I am sad to see Chief Davis go, I am excited to tell you that the Council approved the appointment of Police Captain John Siemens as our new Police Chief effective October 7, 2017. Johnny has worked for the City of Castle Hills for the past 5 years as second-in-command, and he is the natural choice. In addition to having been groomed to step into the Chief’s position, Captain Siemens has a Master’s Degree in Criminal Justice and recently graduated from the pinnacle of training for police officers, the FBI National Academy in Quantico, Virginia. Add to that his familiarity with the City and genuine affection for our City and its residents, and his appointment was a no-brainer!

That’s the news from City Hall, where we’ve got more “Big Doings” in the works. Be safe and try to stay cool!

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Council Comments



JR Trevino,
Place 1

Friends,

I hope everyone is enjoying school being back in full swing. Your City has been working diligently to prepare for 2018 and finalize the budget. While our budget meetings were very productive, unfortunately we did not have much interaction from the community. Please keep in mind that the public is always welcomed to attend posted meetings. Council is always eager to get feedback from residents and in many cases, subject matter experts!

In the August 8th council meeting, it was decided that we would add an additional council meeting on the 4th Tuesday of the month at 6:30 PM. On the even months, it will be a regular meeting and on the odd months it will be a workshop. The subject of an additional council meeting has been discussed for some time now. I think this is a great opportunity to lighten the load on residents and staff. It is my hope that shorter more palatable meetings will encourage people to attend and stay engaged. The additional time will also allow council members to discuss any additional plans we may have, in accordance with the Texas Open Meetings Act.

As I had mentioned during the August 8th council meeting; Bexar County will be adding the area code 726 starting sometime in September. What does this mean for us? Starting September, we will need to dial the area code (either 210 or 726 for local calls) when making a local call. We've been very fortunate to only have to dial the numbers after the area code. Due to the rapid growth in the Greater San Antonio area "210" phone numbers are expected to run out in the near future.

Lastly, National Night Out is right around the corner. This year NNO falls on October 3rd. If you haven't participated in NNO; you are missing out! In my opinion, this is one of the best ways to get out and meet your neighbors. If you are interested in hosting a party for your block or neighborhood, please contact the CHPD or myself.

I look forward to seeing everyone at the next Concert in the Commons!

Yours in service,

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



Maretta Scott,
Place 2

"A great nation does not hide its history. It faces its flaws and corrects them." George W. Bush.

This quote has been an inspiration to me as a newly elected alderman, particularly as it pertains to our local government. I continue to meet more citizens, usually due to a specific issue with a history predating my term, and it's enlightening to hear your concerns. Part of my job involves helping find solutions and working towards resolving our flaws.

There are several key steps in problem solving. The first of which is to clearly identify the problem. Each party involved may perceive the issue differently. It is important to listen and collect information to understand each other's perspective. Likewise, some parties have different interests or investment in the problem. I feel you must be a good listener to achieve a fair and equitable solution. Diligent research and finding the truth are important pieces in resolving a problem.

Documentation, writing down the solution, leads to the next step. Memory of verbal conversations cannot always be relied upon, and it's also possible that your interpretation or understanding of the events differs. Finally, implementing and monitoring the solution through completion is vital to ensure the agreed upon solution is being achieved.

I encourage you to come to city council meetings and sign up to voice your concerns during the scheduled "Citizens To Be Heard" portion of the meeting. Your input is critical, and without it, we won't know an issue exists. Get business cards from council members, email and/or call to follow up on your comments and concerns. Together we face our flaws and improve our community.

I enjoy helping others and being part of the process in finding solutions to problems. It's challenging to dive into an issue and try to help make it right. I look forward to seeing, hearing and serving you at our upcoming council meetings.

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Amy McLin,
PLACE 3

HEARSAY. According to Black's Law Dictionary, "hearsay" is "a term applied to that species of testimony given by a witness who relates, not what he knows personally, but what others have told him, or what he has heard said by others. ... The very nature of the evidence shows its weakness."

We are so used to being exposed to hearsay on a daily basis that we often do not recognize its existence. Therefore, we tend to treat it with the same power as the truth and we fail to verify the facts for ourselves. Distributing hearsay contributes to misinformation. Misinformation creates a divide in our community. It takes us away from addressing the needs and concerns of the city and planning for a bright and successful future. I challenge you to avoid hearsay by:

1. Attending our City Council meetings personally or watching them on Ustream.
2. Following Councils' online message board once it goes live.
3. Joining a committee.
4. Calling or e-mailing your Mayor and/or Alderman if you have questions.
5. Attending community events.
6. Getting to know your neighbors.

Together we can achieve amazing things for our City. Please call or e-mail your problems, concerns, or ideas to me. I am listening!

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



Frank Paul,
PLACE 4

By the time this article is out, summer will be over. Now it's on to the fall schedule of our lives. The older one gets it seems the transition comes more often than in the past.

Oct. 3rd is the date of this year's National Night Out. As a council person, I have been privileged to have been involved in the last 3 events. I did get around to most of the parties. They were great and well attended. In 2014 there were 9 parties. In 2016 there were 14. So it is growing.

The host's of these events do a lot of work to make them happen. If anyone wishes to sign up, you can call Maribel @ 342-2341 ext. 204. She will be happy to help answer your questions. If you wish to host a party, please sign up by September 27th. That is needed for the planning process.

By now, most of you know that our police chief, Wayne Davis is retiring on Oct. 6. He has been with the city for over 20 years. He will be missed. He has not just been our Chief, but also a good friend to many in the city. One of his many accomplishments was to bring in our new Chief early on. Johnny Siemens has been our Captain the last 4 years. He is a professional, well trained and was unanimously approved by Council for the position at the August 8th council meeting. We are fortunate that Chiefs like Wayne Davis and Jerry Riedel had the foresight to bring employees on that would hopefully one day fill the big shoes in their departments. Mission accomplished!

One last thing...since last November, our city has had many challenges. It started with the BASIS school issue that took a lot of our time. When things are going on, unfortunately there is often misinformation and rumors that seem to spread. Much is incorrect but still is thought of as factual. When these things happen, it does nothing to unite our city. So I ask, that if there are any questions about any city business, please contact one of your council people. We are all at your disposal. We represent all citizens. In my case, I may not know the answer, but will do my best to find the answer.

Thank you

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



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

CODE ENFORCEMENT

Happy September! The following are a few tips in regards to typical Autumn clean up. Brush is defined (by code) as leaves, lawn trimmings, grass cuttings, tree trimmings, hedge trimmings, weeds, flower stalks, and trees and tree limbs. Brush cannot be more than the equivalent of three 32-gallon garbage cans. Branches etc. cannot be more than three inches in diameter or more than five feet in length. For bagged leaves, please do not place more than ten, 30-gallon bags at the curb or in the alley at a time for collection, or prior to the Saturday before collection.

As we begin to winterize our pools, please remember that it is prohibited by code to empty a swimming pool, in any manner, that causes or allows any amount of pool water to reach any street, alley, or public right of way in the city.

What is the process for the enforcement of codes? Step 1; a complaint is received and a violation observed. A door hanger or warning letter is generated by the City. Step 2; upon a 10-day follow-up inspection, if the violation still exists a Letter of Violation is sent, allowing for a ten-day correction period. Step 3; upon the Letter of Violation follow-up, if the violation still exists, a citation is written and entered into the judicial system. Once a citation is written, the code officer becomes a witness for the City. Only city court personnel can answer any questions at this point and not the code officer. Generally speaking, if a code violation goes all the way to citation, the code officer will not dismiss the case and the violator will have to speak with the city prosecutor. As always, if you feel the system is not working fast enough for you or in a manner agreeable to you; you may file a complaint with the city court clerk against your neighbor who is in violation. At your hearing date, you can then testify against your neighbor.

Have a great fall and enjoy the cooler weather!

Luis Zamarron
Code Compliance Officer

Distracted Driving

In municipal court, we assist defendants with their traffic citations. Some of the citations are for speeding, running a red light or stop sign, failing to use blinker and many other violations. There are many reasons people get traffic citations and one of the reasons is distracted driving. You may already know of two common distracted driving acts being performed behind the wheel; texting while driving and talking on the cell phone (even hands free). There are many other actions we perform behind the wheel that cause distractions. The following list is some of the not so obvious distractions:

- Adjusting audio or climate controls
- Attending to children's needs
- Daydreaming / lost in thought
- Eating and drinking
- Grooming
- Having an unrestrained pet in your vehicle while driving
- Reaching for something that fell on the floor
- Reading billboards and bumper stickers
- Singing along to the radio
- Smoking
- Talking to passengers
- Using a GPS

Distracted driving can also increase your risk of being in a traffic accident. These types of accidents can result in a simple fender bender or may be the cause of a more serious fatality. There is nothing more important than maintaining control of your vehicle. Stay alert and do not allow controllable distractions to impair your driving. The next time you get behind the wheel, remember that the most important task you can do is concentrate on driving.

Drive safe,
Tina and Vicki
Castle Hills Municipal Court Clerks



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COUNCIL MEETING HIGHLIGHTS



July 11, 2017 – Regular City Council Meeting

- Mayor Howell congratulated Justin Garcia and Joe Hernandez on their promotion to Fire Captain, David Cain and Jeremy Huffman on their promotion to Fire Lieutenant, and Police Corporal Jose Davila, recently honored by Mothers against Drunk Driving (MADD) for six consecutive years on his DWI Enforcement efforts. Mayor Howell welcomed newly hired Firefighters, Hiram Flores and Michael Kelly.

Council approved unanimously:

- Minutes for City Council Meeting on June 13, 2017.
- Accept Budget Workshop Schedule.
- Hire a Message Board Service Provider, for a cost not to exceed \$50 a month.
- Ordinance No. 2017-07-11A Adding “No Stopping, Standing, and Parking Signs” on both sides of North Winston Lane.
- Ordinance No. 2017-07-11B Adding “No Stopping, Standing, and Parking Signs” on both sides of South Winston Lane.
- The Designation of Council Member Amy McLin to research, prepare preliminary plan, regarding available Texas Parks and Wildlife Grants.
- Grant research update on October 10, 2017 on Recreational Trails and Community Outreach and Alamo Area MPO Grants regarding Walkability.
- Crime Control Prevention District Board appointment of Former Alderman John Squire and the reappointment of Mike Poole.

Council approved by majority vote:

- Transfer Fund 11 – Fiesta Castle Hills Fund to the Castle Hills Community Organization (CHCO) and dissolution of said fund, 4-1 Aye (Paul, McLin, Scott, Trevino) Nay (Gregory).
- Items Tabled until the August 8, 2017 City Council Meeting - June 2017 Treasurers Report; scheduling a second regular City Council meeting on the 4th Tuesday of each month and Resolution No. R2017-07-01 Adopting the Bexar County Hazard Mitigation Plan tabled until the October 10, 2017 meeting.

July 25, 2017 Special Meeting City Council

The Council requested a Special Called Meeting to reconfirm the approval to transfer “Fund 11 – Fiesta Castle Hills Fund” to the “Castle Hills Community Organization (CHCO)” and dissolution of said fund.

Motion by Council Member Scott, seconded by Council Member McLin and motion passed by majority vote 4-1; Council Member Gregory abstained.

July 27, 2017 Special Meeting City Council

A Budget Work Session was held to review the Preliminary Budget Presentations for Fiscal Year 2018 for the Police Department and the Public Works Department. Council thanked the Department Directors for their insightful presentations.

August 10, 2017 Special Meeting City Council

Council approved unanimously:

- Minutes for City Council Meeting on July 11, 2017.
- June 2017 Treasurers Report.
- Second Quarter Investment Report.
- City Manager’s recommendation to appoint Captain John N. Siemens to the position of Police Chief effective October 7, 2017.
- Authorize City Manager to issue a request for proposals for the City Hall Parking Lot Repaving Project.

Council approved by majority vote:

- Scheduled a second Regular City Council Meeting on the 4th Tuesday of each “even numbered month” (August, October, December, February, and April) and a City Council Work session on the “odd numbered months” (September, November, January, March, May) until May 2018; Vote 4-1 Aye (Paul, McLin, Scott, Gregory) Nay (Trevino).

Tabled until the August 22, 2017 city council meeting authorization for the City Manager to enter into an Interlocal agreement with the City of San Antonio for construction, goods and services, and subsequently to enter into a contract with Intermountain Slurry Seal to perform a microslurry seal on West Avenue in the amount of \$154,643.56. Tabled until the September 12, 2017 council meeting authorization for the City Manager to enter into a contract with RPS Klotz Associates in the amount of \$163,780 for the project design of Phase III of the Street Program, Antler Drive and Honeysuckle Lane.





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Hello everyone, as October approaches, the Fire Department begins one of our busiest times of year for fire prevention and education. Fire prevention week takes place every year during the second week in October. This year's theme from the National Fire Protection Association, is "Every Second Counts: Plan 2 Ways Out!"

In a fire, seconds count. Seconds can mean the difference between residents of our community escaping safely from a fire or having their lives end in tragedy.

That's why this year's Fire Prevention Week theme: "Every Second Counts: Plan 2 Ways Out!" is so important. It reinforces why everyone needs to have an escape plan. Here's this year's key campaign messages:

- Draw a map of your home with all members of your household, marking two exits from each room and a path to the outside from each exit.
- Practice your home fire drill twice a year. Conduct one at night and one during the day with everyone in your home, and practice using different ways out.
- Teach children how to escape on their own in case you can't help them.
- Make sure the number of your home is clearly marked and easy for the fire department to find.
- Close doors behind you as you leave – this may slow the spread of smoke, heat, and fire.
- Once you get outside, stay outside. Never go back inside a burning building.
- Have one meeting place outside, away from the house, where all members of the home go to "check in".

For more information on this year's theme, you can visit www.NFPA.org. Or for any other fire safety tips or advice, you may stop by, or call the Fire Department non-emergency line at 210-293-9677. We would be happy to come to your residence and perform a safety inspection. If we can be of any assistance, please do not hesitate to call us. Stay safe everyone!



Darrell Dover
Fire Chief



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MAYOR'S BACK TO SCHOOL PICNIC

I would like to thank our participating sponsors for participating in the Mayor's Third Annual Back to School Picnic at the Commons on Saturday, August 19, 2017. Our goal was to promote Child Safety Awareness, which was a great success, because of our participating sponsors, community volunteers, and city staff. We have sponsors and families already talking about attending next year's event.

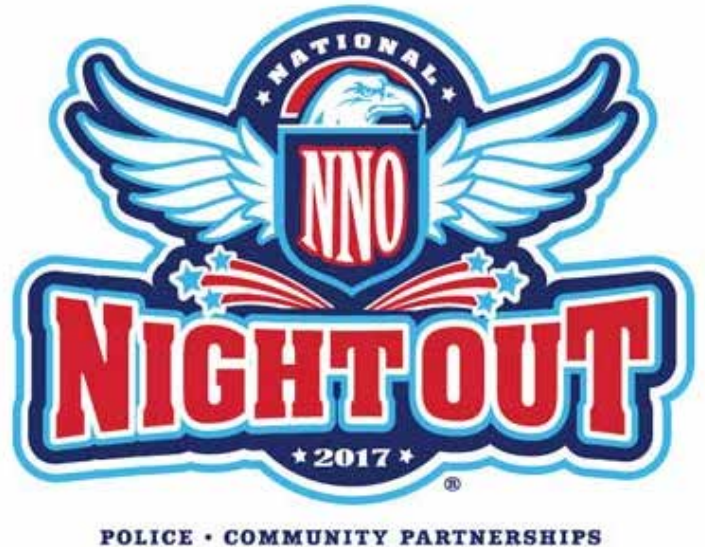
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- Castle Hills Community Organization
- Castle Hills Elementary Safety Patrol
- Castle Hills Fire Department
- Castle Hills Police Department
- Castle Hills Woman's Club
- Chef-Ski Culinary Extraordinaire
- Cub Scouts
- Farmers Insurance
- Girls Club
- HEB
- IBC Bank
- Kona Ice (Sponsored by Kaliff Insurance)
- Papa Johns
- Move SA
- VIA Metropolitan Transit

Performances by:

- Captain America
- The Ham BURGLER
- Mu Sool Won of SA, Master Len Trevino
- Pandorf as the Clown (Sponsored by Jana & Quentin Baker)
- Robert E. Lee High School Drumline
- Robert E. Lee High School Cheerleaders
- San Antonio Spurs
- Sgt. Pepper
- Sparky the Fire Dog

Mayor Howell



National Night Out for Texas is Tuesday, October 3, 2017. Make plans now with your neighbors to have a street party or just a picnic in the front yard! To register your block party, Call Maribel at (210) 342-2341 ext. 204.

NEIGHBORHOOD NEWS & INDEPENDENCE HILL ASSISTED LIVING

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What we do doesn't matter as much as how safely we do it. Castle Hills Municipal Court.



Castle Hills Woman's Club

Dear Friends,

I recently read that “there is immense power when a group of people with similar interests get together toward the same goal.” How appropriate this is, as we begin the 65th year of the Castle Hills Woman’s Club.

For 64 years, this club has created lifelong friendships, raised awareness in our community, supported the Castle Hills police, firefighters and all of our city workers and city government, volunteered in schools and at city wide events, created ribbon cutting events for new businesses and supported each other!

We have leaned from one another through various programs, been entertained and informed, shared laughter and made memories. A huge part of this is due to all of the hard work, time and effort from our officers who spend countless hours creating, organizing and preparing for a winning year....thank you!

Our first club meeting for the year is Monday, September 11th at 6:30 p.m. where we will kick off another year and welcome new and returning members.

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

Cheers,

Bernie Barnes
President, Castle Hills Woman's Club



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

Please send an email to
castlehillswomansclub@gmail.com.



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Vasquez Bridal	Retail



ANNIVERSARIES

1 year Nora Davis Administration

RETIRING EMPLOYEES

Police Chief Wayne Davis is retiring on October 6th after serving the citizens of Castle Hills as a police officer since 1997. Chief Davis served as Chief the past five years. Thank you Chief Davis for your dedicated service to the community.

PROMOTIONS

Congratulations to Police Captain Johnny Siemens who assumes the position of police Chief on October 7th.

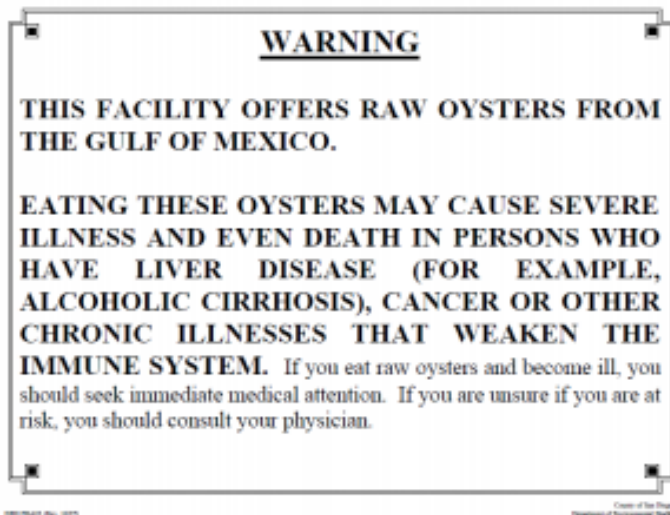
An advertisement for Neighborhood News. On the left, a stylized illustration of a hand holding a megaphone, with sound waves emanating from it. The background is a solid blue. To the right of the megaphone, the text "GET THE WORD OUT." is written in large, white, bold, sans-serif capital letters. Below this, there is a black horizontal bar containing the Neighborhood News logo on the left and contact information on the right. The logo consists of a stylized bird icon above the words "Neighborhood News" and the tagline "We'll get the word out." The contact information includes the text "CONTACT US TODAY!" followed by the phone number "210-558-3160" in large bold digits, and the email address "Sales@NeighborhoodNews.com". To the right of the email address, it says "Ask About Discounts & Multiple Ad Sizes".



Texans love their oysters whether raw on the half shell, prepared as Oysters Rockefeller or cooked on the grill. We even have a national day to recognize and pay tribute to oysters. This year National Oyster Day was observed on August 5th.

America's love affair with the oyster has had its price. In the Winter of 1924-25, oysters were responsible for one of the deadliest foodborne illness outbreaks in U.S. history. Oysters harvested from growing beds contaminated with sewage resulted in more than 1,500 cases of Typhoid Fever, resulting in more than 140 deaths.

Improvements in how cities and towns along the coast treat sewage and; with improvements in how public health officials monitor water quality where oysters are collected have nearly eliminated the risk of Typhoid Fever when consuming oysters. However; during the warm months of summer, illness outbreaks caused by eating raw or undercooked oysters contaminated with Vibrio bacteria are becoming common place.



Last year the U.S. Centers for Disease Control (CDC) reported that 1,252 cases of Vibriosis resulted from eating raw or undercooked oysters with 326 hospitalizations and 34 deaths. Oysters can also accumulate toxins such as domoic acid, brevetoxin and saxitoxin produced by certain algae. Public health officials in some states require restaurants to post a warning about the risk of eating raw oysters from the Gulf of Mexico.

Restaurants that serve raw oysters are required to keep a tag that is attached to each bag of oysters. This oyster tag must be maintained by the restaurant for 90 days after the last one is served from the bag. Oyster tags provide information on where the oysters were harvested and processed. In the event of an illness outbreak the tag helps public health officials identify the source of the oysters.

Individuals that are at a high risk of infection; such as, the elderly, persons on certain medications and pre-school children should not consume raw oysters. Elderly Texans can still enjoy their oysters, just be sure to order them baked or grilled.

Homer Emery, City Health Inspector

Nextdoor Website



The Nextdoor website can be a great tool to communicate to your neighbors and community about a variety of topics. However it is not an ideal way to communicate with the police to report crime or suspicious activity. Although monitored often, The Nextdoor website is not continually monitored by dispatch staff or Castle Hills' Police Officers. As such,

posting information on Nextdoor is not a good substitute for making a police report. Submitting information to Nextdoor only will likely result in a delay of a police response or could go completely unnoticed. If you wish to notify your neighbors about recent crime or suspicious activity using Nextdoor, do so only after first notifying the police department.

If you would like to make an official report with the police department, our officers and dispatchers are available 24/7 by dialing 911 for emergencies or 210-342-2341 for non-emergencies. We welcome the opportunity to serve.

As a reminder, all of The City of Castle Hills departments have direct dial phone numbers.

City Manager	210-293-9673
Admin Assistant	210-293-9680
City Secretary	210-293-9681
Permits	210-293-9675
Finance	210-293-9674
Code Compliance	210-293-9678
Municipal Court	210-293-9679
Public Works	210-293-9676
Fire Department	210-293-9677 (non-emergency)

Marcial Rivera
Communications Supervisor
Castle Hills Dispatch Center





CITY SNAPSHOTS



Jules and Chiaki Brown owners of Vortex Realty welcome Police Chief Davis, the members of the Castle Hills Woman's Club, friends and clients at their grand opening ribbon cutting.



An outstanding performance was given by the Lee High School drum line during the activities in the Commons at the Mayor's Picnic.



Fire Chief Dover and Sparky "ham it up" with children at the Mayor's Picnic.



The cheerleaders from Lee High School pose for a picture with H-E-Buddy at the August 19th Mayor's Picnic.

go green

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

Did you know you can "opt in" to have
this newsletter delivered electronically?

How?

- 1 Visit www.NeighborhoodNews.com
- 2 Click on: "Let's do our part"
and follow the instructions.

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Neighborhood News is pleased to be offering this free service!

Questions? Feel free to contact us at (210) 558-3160
or info@neighborhoodnews.com



Sandra and Roland Madrid celebrate the opening of their new restaurant, Eggspress with a grand opening assisted by the Castle Hills Woman's Club.



OPENING THIS SUMMER

**You went the extra mile
and now you're injured.**

Choose the Emergency Room that offers comprehensive care.

The CHRISTUS Santa Rosa Emergency Center at Highway 281 and Bitters offers adult and pediatric services in one convenient location. When you come into the ER, you are entering the comprehensive and seamless care of our entire health care system.

That means you have access to the physicians, technologies, and services you need. It means you will have a smooth transition from ER to Hospital, should that be required. It means caring people to help you navigate an unexpected medical incident, and a faith-based mission of healing that supports you and your family.

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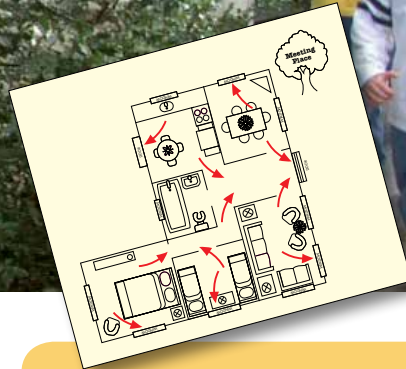
Bitters Emergency Center | Highway 281 and Bitters | Located behind Luby's

CHRISTUS Santa Rosa Emergency Centers – Bitters is a departments of CHRISTUS Santa Rosa Hospital – Medical Center with pediatric clinical support provided by The Children's Hospital of San Antonio.

Schedule an appointment online: christussantarosa.org/ER

Escape Planning

Plan Ahead! If a fire breaks out in your home, you may have only a few minutes to get out safely once the smoke alarm sounds. Everyone needs to know what to do and where to go if there is a fire.



SAFETY TIPS

- » **MAKE** a home escape plan. Draw a map of your home showing all doors and windows. Discuss the plan with everyone in your home.
- » **KNOW** at least two ways out of every room, if possible. Make sure all doors and windows leading outside open easily.
- » **HAVE** an outside meeting place (like a tree, light pole or mailbox) a safe distance from the home where everyone should meet.
- » **PRACTICE** your home fire drill at night and during the day with everyone in your home, twice a year.
- » **PRACTICE** using different ways out.
- » **TEACH** children how to escape on their own in case you can't help them.
- » **CLOSE** doors behind you as you leave.

IF THE ALARM SOUNDS...

- » If the smoke alarm sounds, **GET OUT AND STAY OUT**. Never go back inside for people or pets.
- » If you have to escape through smoke, **GET LOW AND GO** under the smoke to your way out.
- » **CALL** the fire department from outside your home.

FACTS

- ! A closed door may slow the spread of smoke, heat, and fire. Install smoke alarms inside every sleeping room and outside each separate sleeping area. Install alarms on every level of the home. Smoke alarms should be interconnected. When one smoke alarm sounds, they all sound.
- ! According to an NFPA survey, only **one of every three** American households have actually developed and practiced a home fire escape plan.
- ! While **71%** of Americans have an escape plan in case of a fire, only **47%** of those have practiced it.
- ! **One-third** of American households who made an estimate thought they would have at least 6 minutes before a fire in their home would become life-threatening. The time available is often less. And only **8%** said their first thought on hearing a smoke alarm would be to get out!

Emergency Call 9-1-1

Non-emergency 210-293-9677



Your Source for SAFETY Information

NFPA Public Education Division • 1 Batterymarch Park, Quincy, MA 02169

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