



The Castle Hills *Reporter*



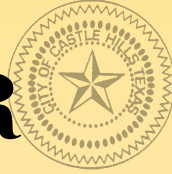
POLICE • COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS

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MESSAGE FROM THE MAYOR



The end of summer seems to come around faster each year. We are always ready for the cooler days that fall brings, but summertime reminds us of riding bicycles, playing hide-and-go-seek, enjoying an ice cream cone, cicadas singing and the many other special childhood memories we hold dear. As adults we are zooming through our days at such a high rate of speed we forget that summertime is for us to go for a walk at the end of the day, sit on the porch listening to the sounds of the evening, and enjoy an ice cream cone.

The city council and staff spent a great portion of the summer preparing the FY-2019 annual city budget. Mr. Rapelye, City Manager and Lara Feagins, Finance Consultant along with department heads and staff presented a lean budget that allows city services to be maintained at their same exceptional level. The city will always have expenditures for necessary items. Fire bunker gear has a specific lifespan which is mandated both federally and at the state level. Replacing the protective clothing needed for the safety of our firefighters and ultimately the citizens they serve is part of operating the city. We will purchase 6 new sets of firefighter gear in 2019. City hall, just like our homes and businesses, needs interior and exterior maintenance to keep the building sound and protect the capital investment.

Streets and drainage continue to be the primary focus for city infrastructure. Castle Hills has miles of streets needing more than routine maintenance. We are constantly looking at ways to maintain our current roadways and alleys, but repairing streets without addressing drainage would be a lack of foresight in many areas of Castle Hills.

Each year during budget, we circle back to the same conclusions. Pay as you go is the perfect option for infrastructure, but it will require decades to address the street/drainage needs and avoid debt. Developing more revenue for the city is always discussed, but Castle Hills is almost completely built out. With a focus on neighborhoods, no

industrial areas, and limited retail; sales tax does not provide a stable growing source of income, and ad valorem taxes do not generate enough revenue for massive street repairs/replacements. The conversation then turns to bonds. Funding options require more discussions, but the bond option is always included in the conversation.

Presently, a mill and overlay of a street cost approximately \$22/square yard. A full depth reclamation runs around \$61/ square yard. As early as at his job interview for city manager, Ryan Rapelye has encouraged the city to proceed with the development of an overall infrastructure plan or a capital improvements plan to create a vision for five years identifying and allocating the appropriate funds on an annual basis. This too is an idea needing additional discussion.

The council and staff strive to find funding solutions, offer premier services, and create a healthy and safe city. I encourage you and your family to join with your neighbors on Tuesday, October 2nd for National Night Out (NNO). Strengthen your neighborhood by building friendships and enjoy the fun of a good old fashion neighborhood picnic or block party. Be sure to contact Valorie at the Police Department to register your NNO event. Council and staff will visit parties to share in your neighborhood fun. It is also a chance to start a dialog if you have thoughts about Castle Hills.

Mark Twain elegantly says goodbye to summer, "Warm summer sun, shine kindly here. Warm southern wind, blow softly here. Green sod above, lie light, lie light. Good night, dear Heart, Good night, good night." I have enjoyed summer, but I look forward to the fall.

Timothy A Howell

Mayor City of Castle Hills Texas
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Tim Howell
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Rick Harada
Public Works & Animal Control
Department Director
(210) 293-9676

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

City Council
2nd 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

MESSAGE FROM THE CITY MANAGER

By Ryan D. Rapelye, City Manager



Balancing a Budget with an Emphasis on Customer Service

The annual operating budget serves as a policy document, a financial plan, an operations guide, and a communications device for the City. It is the foundation for the City's allocation of resources toward service delivery plans providing quality services, targeted investments, and continued improvements. It also reflects incremental changes addressing service requirements and builds upon initiatives funded in prior years, while establishing new direction for programs. The budget document is also used to evaluate the effectiveness of City programs and services while providing extensive information on municipal operations.

During the budget process, we must ensure we continue to maintain and provide excellent municipal services to citizens, businesses, and visitors while ensuring appropriate funding and tracking of all financial resources. The City operates in a fiscal year that begins January 1 through December 31. The process of developing the City of Castle Hills budget is a comprehensive effort which involves input from the City Council, outside governmental agencies, and all City departments. The process always involves our residents having an opportunity to speak on the budget during two public hearings before final adoption.

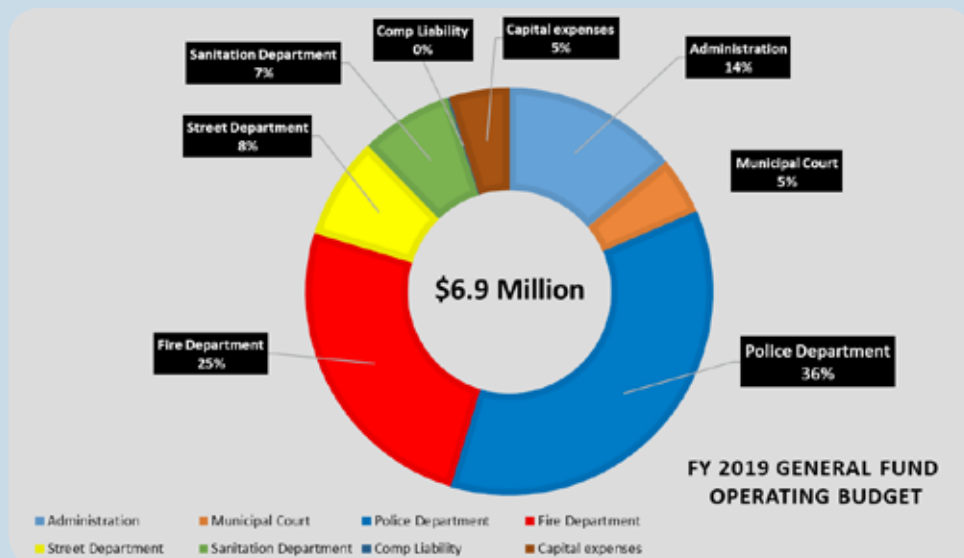
With a steady economy and positive economic indicators, the City is well positioned financially and total expenses for the FY 2019

Proposed Budget are \$6,940,027. Ending estimated total unreserved fund balance for the City in FY 2019 is \$3,294,987, which is slightly less than six months. As is the case with most municipalities, personnel/ payroll costs make up the largest single expense in a budget. Public safety requires round the clock staffing and specialized equipment that endures extensive wear and tear. The \$6.9 million operating (General Fund) budget covers everyday important services, such as fire and law enforcement protection, sanitation and street repairs with in our Public Works department, municipal court and administrative offices which include

permitting/planning. This balanced budget keeps the focus on protecting city investments and providing high-quality services to Castle Hills residents.

Staff is in the process of working with our City's on-demand City Engineer to develop the framework for a 5-year Capital Improvements Plan (CIP), this will encompass all streets and drainage projects. City Council recognizes that long-term street repairs are needed across the City. Discussions are underway to prioritize needs collectively in a CIP and identify funding options for much-needed street repairs. The Street Maintenance, Drainage-Utility and Supplemental Street Funds are available for future infrastructure projects. Revenue for projects is generated from the use of Street Maintenance Sales Tax, Digital Billboard, General Fund and the possibility of issuing certificates of obligation. Costs are reflected in the FY 2019 Budget.

Continued on page 10>>



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COUNCIL COMMENTS

CLYDE R. McCORMICK PLACE 1



Busy six weeks since my last report. Two council meetings in June. Lots of work and research in preparation for the meetings. The July meetings of the Alamo Area

Metropolitan Planning Organization were cancelled for the summer vacation. Now its time for the budget and we have already had three budget working meetings. Still a lot to do to get ready to approve the budget in September.

I have had the opportunity to do another tour of the drainage problems we still have around the city with Mr. Gregory. I think there may be some solutions that may be less expensive while still being effective, at least for some of the issues. I plan to study the streets and drainage master plan to learn a bit more about the problem. Also took a tour of the city hall building with a view to existing defects including damaged or rotting wood around the fascia and soffit bordering the roof, flashing improvements, disability ramps and leaks around doors. I believe we must maintain our building, if only to preserve its value and effectiveness for city uses. Still looking at roads, maintenance and repairs. We really need to get some things done in that area.

An article in the Wall Street Journal for Thursday, July 31, 2018, page A4, focused on civil discourse, which has become a rare commodity in political conversations and campaigns. The good folks in Duluth, Minn decided to act to improve the level of conversation by launching a program they call "Speak Your Peace: The Civility Project" It is a very simple program. Here are the rules:

- 1- pay attention
- 2- listen
- 3- be inclusive
- 4- don't gossip
- 5- show respect
- 6- be agreeable
- 7- apologize
- 8- give constructive criticism
- 9- take responsibility

In Duluth the problems seemed to come from economic anxiety and fear of change,

"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."

plant closings, loss of jobs etc. Here in Castle Hills we have our own concerns which seem to include fear of change and economic anxiety, all made worse by "stir the pot" politics. We can do better. I believe that most of our elected leaders have a serious interest in doing the best for the city. The goal is to encourage public discourse to discover the best actions to take for the city. By listening carefully people may discover common ground. To pay attention and listen carefully you must silence the inner critic and stop planning your response while the other person is talking. Hear what is being said. Show respect for one another.

Enjoy the sun but pray for rain!

MARETTA SCOTT PLACE 2



I hope this issue of the Castle Hills Reporter finds everyone happily back in school for the 2018-2019 school year.

I know our year-round public school has been in session

since July, and the rest of our local schools public, private, charter and magnets started in August. Our homeschoolers set their own schedules and might just now be starting back in September.

Today is an amazing time to be a young person receiving an education. Your options are almost limitless as a parent in choosing the best place for your child's education to occur from early childhood through high school. I am thrilled to be raising children in a time where as a parent I can find them the best resources and schools (even my own kitchen table and living room) to meet their learning styles and needs as a student.

I want to encourage all of our citizens to get behind our local schools and our homeschool co-ops to volunteer your time or resources to help our students succeed in becoming successful adults.

Just because you do not have a school aged child or grandchild does not mean there are not plenty of opportunities to volunteer at a school near you. All schools need volunteers to sign up to do anything from making copies, cutting out hallway displays, reading to kids, listening to kids read, helping small groups with math problems or just being another adult to lend a helping hand on campus. Volunteering isn't just for moms and grandmoms anymore.

Many of our local schools have a chapter of Watch D.O.G.S. They are always looking for volunteers. WATCH D.O.G.S. is one of the nation's largest and most respected school-based, family, and community engagement, organizations in the country. Each school year hundreds of thousands of fathers and father-

figures make a positive impact on millions of children by volunteering millions of hours in their local schools through this amazing one-of-a-kind program. Who are WatchDOGS? Fathers, grandfathers, step-fathers, uncles, and other father figures who volunteer to serve at least one day a year in a variety of school activities as assigned by the school principal or other administrator.

Also, right now those school supplies are on sale. Pick up a few each time you swing through the local stores and pack them away for January. This is when teachers start running out of many supplies that were plentiful in the fall. The main ones are always pencils and glue sticks, a box of either of those will make a teacher's day come spring. You can drop them off at the front office of any school addressed to the grade level of your choice.

Whether you, go public, go private, go charter, go magnet or go homeschool I salute all the teachers in our community and all the volunteers that make our schools run smoothly every day. Call a school or co-op near you and ask how you can be a part of helping educate the next generation.

Stay safe this year and keep on learning.

mscott@castlehills-tx.gov

AMY McLIN PLACE 3



Recycling became a hot topic at our first budget workshop. I have been recycling since I was a little girl. My mom would sort the glass, aluminum, and newspapers and we

would take them to the appropriate recycling company. The glass recycling facility was the most fun because you got to throw the glass into the green, brown, or clear bin depending on its color. Throughout my life I have continued to recycle as facilities have been available.

Our old neighborhood near the airport was one of the pilot areas when San Antonio changed over to automated pick up and delivered the brown trash bin and blue recycle bin to start their automated sanitation program. We were excited to be part of that project and quickly learned that when you could recycle as many things as there on San Antonio's recycling list you barely create any trash ... even with a baby in the house. I love that San Antonio has since added a third (green) bin for compostable items.

When we moved to Castle Hills in June 2009, one of the first things my husband did was go to Public Works and buy two recycle tubs and lids. We quickly outgrew the tubs and now have upgraded to a small rolling trash can. On our first Thanksgiving Day in Castle Hills we built a huge compost bin out of left over cinder blocks

we found in our backyard and we have been composting ever since further reducing our family's trash output.

Recycling is an ingrained habit of my family. I challenge all citizens to help our City control disposal costs and help the planet by recycling and composting. If I can be of assistance, please do not hesitate to contact me.

amclin@castlehills-tx.gov

LESLEY WENGER

Mayor Pro-Tem, PLACE 4



Meet Scott Gray

While Scott and Maricela Gray have lived in Castle Hills for 30 years, that is not what makes them our newest power couple—now being covered in the Express-News and the San Antonio Business Journal.

Scott began his career in 1985 as a software engineer at Kelly AFB working hand-in-hand on many Department of Defense (DOD) projects, while Maricela was a dental technician/hygienist. Scott moved on from Kelly to work at other companies adding to his tech expertise and Maricela became acquainted with high tech developing in the dental field.

In 2012 they decided to start their own company, an engineering design firm, with Maricela as the CEO—giving them the advantage of a woman-owned business. In 2016 they moved their business to Castle Hills to the office building at 1919 NW Loop 410 that was previously occupied by DeVry University, where they are now ensconced in one of the most attractive office spaces imaginable, tastefully designed by Maricela with expansive views and light in every room in the 4000 sf space, including in the lab and R&D.

The company, Elevate Systems, “takes old things and makes them new” according to Scott, but that doesn’t begin to describe their amazing work, most of which is for DOD which has discovered they can save money by rehabbing planes and other equipment. The problem DOD (and others) faced was that a lot of the parts needed were no longer being manufactured. Enter Elevate. Their customers bring them old parts which they redesign on a series of 3-D printers that can turn them out in either thermoplastic or titanium. More importantly, for U.S. taxpayers, they can take a part that was costing \$10,000 and create one that costs \$300—still making a profit and obviously attracting new customers on a daily basis.

As Scott points out, their job is to redesign

the product and then to locate a manufacturer to produce it. As members of “America Makes” most of the companies they find are in the U.S., and of course, given their location, most of those are in Texas. Some of their testing is done at Southwest Research Institute and aside from three different companies currently manufacturing their designs in San Antonio, other business is going to cities like Burnett, Marble Falls and Fort Worth. But all of the merchandise is sold from their HQ in Castle Hills which means that we get the benefit of the city’s portion of the state sales tax.

In the process of developing Elevate Systems, which is all about saving money, they incorporated a section that supplies LED lighting to reduce electric bills. In 2015, one of the beneficiaries of that segment was Castle Hills City Hall: Elevate replaced all the lighting fixtures and, as part of the warranty, continue to physically replace bulbs as needed, saving us even more on product and labor costs.

On top of all this good news, on my tour of Elevate’s HQ I met Evan Gray (Scott and Maricela’s son) and one of his co-workers, Oliver Garcia. Evan, Oliver and three other classmates from the first STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering & Math) graduating class at Lee HS are all employed at Elevate. Aside from his design abilities, Evan has the same enthusiasm and communication skills as his dad, and enjoys interpreting tech terms for laymen while showing off their latest creations which keep evolving into new areas as the business expands.

In appreciation for the talent they receive from our public school system, Elevate has formed SASTEMIC, (S.A Science Technology Engineering and Math) a charitable corporation to provide scholarships for students in those fields. Another extension of giving-back to the community is Scott’s service as a member of the Castle Hills Zoning Commission.

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DOUGLAS GREGORY PLACE 5



Over the last several years I have been alarmed to see how our local government officials have expressed the belief that the homeowner/

taxpayer is simply a sponge to squeeze every last drop of money that can be taken thru fees/taxes. The attitude, that it is government money, not your money, has proponents. I am not one of them.

Repairing our infrastructure is my number one spending priority for Castle Hills. This fall, I expect to introduce programs to spend over \$1,000,000 in street/drainage repairs. After reviewing the City Manager’s budget proposal, I believe there are positions that need not be filled, no new positions should be brought forth—and in one or two cases, compensation should be frozen. As of today, there is approximately one employee for every 54 residents, an incredible ratio.

For some, one of the most seductive effects of being an elected holder, is the ease in which you can spend other people’s money and raise taxes/fees. Failure to grasp that there are immediate projects that have to be addressed is often replaced by “pie in the sky” projects/ideas that can cost the city valuable time and money.

Castle Hills can successfully address needed infrastructure repairs, over time. Spending of your tax money must be dedicated to this priority. Raising taxes must be the last option to choose in order to move forward. The budget is bloated. What the Council does will unfold over the next several months. Stay tuned and hold on to your wallet.

Please call me at (210) 378-4481 or email me at dagduke212@aol.com if you have comments or questions.

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COUNCIL MEETING

HIGHLIGHTS



August 14, 2018

City Council accepted:

- May 31, 2018, Financial Report tabled on July 10, 2018.
- Financial Report ending June 30, 2018.
- 2nd Quarterly Investment Report.

City Council Approved:

- Resolution No. R18-08-14, commending Captain David Duggan for 37 years of loyal employment in the Castle Hills Fire Department and honoring him for his faithful and dedicated service to the residents of The City of Castle Hills.
- Resolution No. R18-08-14-B, in opposition to the streamlining the rapid evolution and modernization of leading-edge infrastructure necessary to enhance (Streamline Act) small cell deployment act (s. 3157) proposed by Senators of the United States Congress.
- Resolution No. R18-08-14-C, to ratify the appointments on the Crime Prevention District Board, ratify all actions taken by the board on expenditures made from September 1, 2016 through August 14, 2018.
- Resolution No. R18-08-14-D, confirming up to five members to the CCPD Board to replace those positions that have expired, or who have recently resigned. Appointed Robert Riley, Sylvia Gonzalez, Sean Baker, and George Booth.
- Resolution No. R18-08-14-F, authorizing and directing the Mayor to explore the creation of a North Central Economic Development Alliance, to improve city and area economic activity and enable participation in The Alamo Area Metropolitan Planning Organization and other agencies.
- Ordinance No. 2018-07-10-B, amending Chapter 2 "Administration" of the Code of Ordinances, Article IV "Departments", Section 2-191 "Department Heads" to designate department heads.
- Resolution No. R18-07-10-A, that the legal service contract with Michael S. Brennan shall not be renewed after August 31, 2018, and shall terminate on that date. Direct City Manager to immediately issue and publish an open (anyone shall apply) Request for Qualifications to identify persons to be interviewed for the positions of City Attorney.
- Resolution No. R18-08-14-G, to accept the Passport Business Plan to meet the first of two required presentations as per Ordinance No. 2018-06-12-F; tabled on July 10, 2018.
- Extend the deadline up to October 31, 201, for the requirement of 14-foot vertical clearance between the surface of all portions for such curb, roadway, pavement, or alley. The 14-foot clearance must be maintained under all weather conditions and circumstances as provided in the Code of Ordinances Chapter 48, Vegetations, Sec. 48-137(b).
- Instruct the City Manager and the City Attorney to prepare and publish a Request for Proposals (RFPs) for the City of Castle Hills Digital Billboard Signage for NW Loop 410 Hwy. and NW Military Hwy.

- Review by the Zoning Commission and Direct the City Manager/ City Attorney to draft an ordinance allowing short-term rentals.
- Direct the City Manager and City Attorney to draft an ordinance to adopt a "standard of care" protecting pets from animal cruelty and extreme outdoor weather conditions; enforcement of same by Animal Control and by the Police Department.
- Direct the City Manager and City Attorney to draft an ordinance requiring cable companies that receive a city permit to dig or trench in our alleys must to pave the alley after trenching; and requiring all utilities who need to dig or trench in our streets to fill the hole or trench with the best recommended material (cement/flowable fill) upon completion.
- MPT Wenger pulled agenda item "directing the City Manager to enter into a contract(s) for the replacement of the exterior doors into the Admin/Court office foyer and consider refinishing the existing wooden and glass doors moving them into the doorway between the Admin/Court foyer and the Council Chambers/Courtroom" to be considered with the Fiscal Year 2019 Budget.
- The City Manager's evaluation is scheduled the 1st week in October 2018; date to be determined.

August 8, 2018 City Council Budget Workshop #3

- Presentation/discussion submission of the City Manager's proposed FY 2019 Budget.
- Consider and act upon a proposed Tax Rate for FY 2019; take record vote and schedule public hearing on the proposed tax rate.
- Consider and act upon scheduling the public hearings on the proposed budget for fiscal year 2019.

July 31, 2018 City Council Budget Workshop #2

- Presentation/discussion of the preliminary FY 2019 Budget for the Fire Department.
- Presentation/discussion of the preliminary FY 2019 Budget for the Administration Department.
- Presentation/discussion of the preliminary FY 2019 Budget for the Municipal Court.
- Presentation/discussion of the receipt of the effective and rollback calculation for the City of Castle Hills.
- Fiscal Year 2019 Budget Overview and Assumptions.

July 24, 2018 City Council Budget Workshop #1

- Presentation/discussion of the preliminary revenues for the City of Castle Hills.
- Presentation/discussion of the preliminary FY 2019 Budget for the Police Department.
- Presentation/discussion of the preliminary FY 2019 Budget for the Public Works Department.

July 10, 2018 City Council Meeting

Council unanimously accepted The Architectural Review Committee's

recommendation to approve Sushihana Japanese Restaurant located at 1810 NW Military Hwy, addition of a new foyer and roof top tower, rebuilding of the existing deck and reconfiguring of parking spaces.

Ordinance No. 2018-07-10-A, amending Chapter 2 "Administration" of the Code of Ordinances Regular City Council Meetings shall be held on the second Tuesday of each month except in the month of May of each year when the regular City Council Meeting will be held on the third Tuesday.

Ordinance No. 2018-06-12-C, to prohibit the funding or payment from 2018 funds for the purchase of Incode "Finance and Personnel Management Module", Tyler Technologies; and the City Manager shall explore termination of the software service agreement with Tyler Technologies dated May 14, 2018.

Council directed the City Manager to get an updated estimate from the City Engineer to reconstruct Banyan Street, from Carolwood to Tamworth," in concrete or asphalt, with special emphasis on drainage concerns.

Council approved the minutes from May 29, 2018 with revisions.

Postponed

- Financial Report ending May 2, 2018
- Minutes for the April 10, 2018 Council Meeting
- Passport Business Plan

Passports

The City of Castle Hills is now officially able to accept paperwork for U.S. passport applications at city hall. The passport application services are available on a walk-in basis:



Mon – 8:30 am to 2:00 pm; **Wed** – 8:30 am to 4:00 pm;
Fri – 10:00 am to 2:00 pm

Appointments are available for Saturdays from 8:30 am to 1:30 pm. To schedule an appointment call (210) 293-9674 or (210) 342-2341.

For more information regarding how to apply for or renew your passport, please visit the U. S. Department of State website at: <https://travel.state.gov/content/travel/en/passports.html>

THE BIG GUY VS YOU

On the open road we share the lanes of traffic with all kinds of drivers, the good, the bad and the BIG. Please keep in mind when driving near larger vehicles that they have large blind spots, limited maneuverability, and it takes them longer to slow down and stop. The following are some tips you should use when sharing the road with larger vehicles:

Stay out of their blind spots

Large vehicles have different blind spots than small passenger vehicles. When you are driving on the side of a tractor trailer or large bus it is hard and sometimes impossible for the operator of the large vehicle to see you. Another blind spot is directly behind the large vehicle.

Pass with care

You see other drivers who are driving reckless on the road and they are weaving in and out of different lanes without regard to how close they are passing the other drivers. Not passing with care near a large vehicle can have serious if not deadly consequences. Do not ever cut in front of a large vehicle. They cannot slow down as easily as smaller vehicles due to the size and weight of their vehicle. Also, always pass on the left and never on the right.

Avoid tailgating and give larger driving distances

While you should never follow too closely to another vehicle, tractor trailers do not have bumpers that absorb the impact of a crash. Large vehicles cannot stop easily and need more distance than the average passenger vehicle to come to a full and complete stop.

Give large vehicles space when they are making a turn

This goes along the same lines as passing with care. Large vehicles need more space to make a turn. Always assume the operator of a large vehicle cannot see you. It is often necessary to "swing-wide" when making a turn to ensure the trailer does not cut the corner and go over the curb or hit a pole or parked vehicle. Don't attempt to "get around" the large vehicle or your vehicle might interfere with the turn.

It is imperative you are vigilant when driving and always take into consideration the conditions of the roads you are traveling; especially when you are on the road near a large vehicle. When collisions occur between large vehicles and small passenger vehicles those who are traveling in the smaller vehicle are the ones who are most likely to be injured or sustain serious life threatening injuries that can result in death.

As always, Drive Safe!

Tina Zelenak

Court Clerk



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As Fire Prevention Week approaches, the Castle Hills Fire Department encourages residents to "Look. Listen. Learn." What does that mean? Today's home fires burn faster than ever. In a typical home fire, you may have as little as one to two minutes to escape safely from the time the smoke alarm sounds. Knowing how to use that time wisely takes planning and practice. The Castle Hills Fire Department is teaming up with the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) – the official sponsor of Fire Prevention Week™ for more than 90 years – to promote this year's Fire Prevention Week campaign, "Look. Listen. Learn. Be aware. Fire can happen anywhere™".

The campaign works to educate the public about basic but essential ways to quickly and safely escape a home fire. NFPA statistics show that the number of U.S. home fires has been steadily declining over the past few decades. However, the death rate per 1000 home fires that are reported to fire departments was 10 percent higher in 2016 than in 1980. "These numbers show that while we've made significant progress in teaching people how to prevent fires from happening, there's still much more work to do in terms of educating the public about how to protect themselves in the event of one," said Loraine Carli, NFPA's vice president of Outreach and Advocacy. "This is particularly critical given the increased speed at which today's home fires grow and spread." Carli also notes that although people feel safest in their home, it is also the place people are at greatest risk to fire, with four out of five U.S. fire deaths occurring at home. That over-confidence contributes to a complacency toward home escape planning and practice.

Working in the fire service for many years, fire fighters know that people often make choices in fire situations that jeopardize their safety or even cost them their lives. We need to do a better job of teaching people about the potentially life-saving difference escape planning and practice can make and motivating them to action.

This year's "Look. Listen. Learn" campaign highlights three steps people can take to help quickly and safely escape a fire:

- Look for places fire could start.
- Listen for the sound of the smoke alarm.
- Learn 2 ways out of every room.

While NFPA and the Castle Hills Fire Department are focusing on home fires, these fire safety messages apply to virtually anywhere. Situational awareness is a skill people need to use wherever they go. No matter where you are, look for available exits. If the alarm system sounds, take it seriously and exit the building immediately. The Castle Hills Fire Department will be visiting area schools in support of this year's Fire Prevention Week campaign, "Look. Listen. Learn".

For more information about Fire Prevention Week and home escape planning, visit www.firepreventionweek.org. If we can be of any assistance, please do not hesitate to contact us.



Chief Darrell Dover

Castle Hills Fire Department

SALMONELLA: MORE THAN TURKEYS TO WORRY ABOUT

Recommendations for the safe preparation and cooking of turkey dishes should be taken seriously if you want to keep Salmonella bacteria from ruining your holiday feast. When it comes to turkey remember to thaw at a safe temperature. Temperatures between 41 and 140 degrees F are known as the "danger zone" in which foodborne bacteria rapidly multiply. Cooking times will vary. The food thermometer must reach a safe minimum internal temperature of 165°F. Let the turkey stand 20 minutes before removing all stuffing from the cavity and carving the meat.

When it comes to Salmonella bacteria, turkey is not the only menu item you need to worry about. This summer a number of Salmonella contaminated foods had to be recalled by food manufacturers. Products that had to be recalled ranged from pasta salads, leafy green salads, pre-cut melons, cut melons, dried coconut, bean sprouts and even Kellogg's Honey Smacks Cereal. More than 400 individual became sick from eating these contaminated products.

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Most people infected with Salmonella develop diarrhea, fever, and abdominal cramps within 12 to 72 hours after exposure to the bacteria. The U.S. Food and Drug Administration, along with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and state and local partners, are still investigating multistate outbreaks of Salmonella illnesses. People who became ill ranged in age from less than 1 year to 97 and involved more than sixty hospitalizations.

Before you start shop for that holiday feast you might want to check the FDA Food Recall Website at <http://www.fda.gov/Safety/Recalls> to see if a recall has been issued for any items on your menu. If you find a product that has been recalled follow directions provided in the recall notice or contact the manufacture. A copy of the USDA guidelines for the preparation and cooking of turkeys can be downloaded from the following Website: <http://www.foodsafesa.com/talking-turkey>.

Homer Emery, RS

City Health Inspector

The Code Process

Why does a code violation still exist a few days to a few weeks after the initial complaint?

I get that question several times a week, perhaps not framed so dispassionately! Here's the answer. In cases where there is a true violation of the Code as written, every single violator gets due process. This means a warning is given to those who have not committed a previous offense of the same nature (or given an official letter if they are repeat offenders) and whose properties are approachable, meaning that the properties are not fenced in, guarded by canines, posted as "no trespass", abandoned, or are not rentals. Violations must be visible from a public right of way or public space.

Once the property has been warned, the violator has ten (10) days by which to comply. At the end of the ten days if the violation has not been rectified, the violator will be served (by mail, both registered and unregistered) an official Notice of Violation with ten more days by which to comply.

If the violator chooses to disregard that letter and if after those ten days the violation continues to exist, a court complaint is written initiating a summons for a court hearing. Even though still a code violation, once the complaint is written, the code officer becomes a witness for the City in court and cannot, nor will not, influence the court by requesting



an expedited hearing date for a case, regardless of public outcry. The courts set the date and the docket, not code compliance.

Should a violator choose to ignore their court date, the courts then act upon it, as per state law, but the code violation itself may continue to exist. The only time that the code officer will get involved in a case that is in the judicial system is when the continued violation becomes an articulable health and/or life safety issue. Aesthetics or perceived property values do not enter the decision to abate a hazard. This entire process ensures that the citizens of Castle Hills are given ample time to remediate a violation. Anything other than a thoughtful, deliberate, fair and fully legal code compliance program opens up the City and its citizens to a potentially expensive 14th Amendment violation law suit. I hope this article has shed some light as to the limitations of "forcing a solution" onto a potential code violator.

Code enforcement is about protecting the health and safety of our residents. Not all code violations are because the resident is lazy or does not care. Being physically unable to perform the tasks, death of a loved one, loss of a job, and even mental health issues can be the cause of the lack of compliance. The City's process for code compliance is a sound legal process. As always, thank you submitting your complaints. You can always file against your neighbor if you feel the legal process does not represent your personal interests. Thanks for your understanding.

Code Compliance

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<<Continued from page 3

The City of Castle Hills has very good employees who are knowledgeable, talented and dedicated to their respected positions within the organization. When developing the proposed budget, we must not lose focus on the customer service impact and ensure our employees have the appropriate funding in order to effectively carry out services in order to meet the demands of our residents. Customer services should exceed in the delivery process of these services and staff is committed to providing high quality, accessible and responsive services. If you ever believe that our services have not been provided in such a fashion, please immediately let us know of your complaint and/or suggestion. Likewise, if you believe that our services have exceeded your expectations, please also let us know. Whether positive or negative, we invite and take all feedback from our customers seriously.

We want you to know that we continuously reinforce the importance of customer service and give all City staff guidance on how to utilize customer feedback. Your feedback is an essential part of our effort to identify potential problems and improve upon each and every service our local government delivers to you, our residents, businesses and visitors.

Every budget is an attempt to balance current and future needs within the framework of limited resources. Council and staff are very much aware of this and we have constructed this year's proposed budget within those guidelines. Our budget sustains City operations, addresses capital needs, and clears the way for long-term street repair discussions. Staff is committed to serving as responsible stewards of your tax dollars and your investment in the City of Castle Hills.

CASTLE HILLS COMMUNITY ORGANIZATION

Happy Fall y'all,

By the time you read this, I hope you have heard the good news. Fiesta Castle Hills has been accepted as an official Fiesta San Antonio event. I would like to personally thank Ana Frias and the entire Fiesta Castle Hills team (David Olivares, Katie Holmes, Norma and Ross McClelland, Judy and Rob Crawford, Carlos Mugica, Linda Roman, Joanna and Vince Martinez and Zuzana and Danny Trejo and everybody that supported us) for all their hard work and dedication. I would also like to thank every past chair and volunteers that helped shape Fiesta Castle Hills into what it is today, especially all our legacy and new sponsors (Kaliff Insurance, IBC Bank, the Castle Hills Woman's Club and Trecco Enterprises, just to name a few). We have had so many Castle Hills businesses support Fiesta Castle Hills over the years we don't have enough space to name them all, understand that we appreciate every business that have been there for us over the years. Finally, a thank you to the City of Castle Hills Council and employees for all the assistance and encouragement.

September sees the end of the Summer Concert in The Commons concert series and we begin our Family movie nights starting Friday September 14th at dusk.

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As always, the concerts and movies could not be possible without your membership support. Every dollar of your membership dues goes directly back into our community by paying for the activities. If you haven't joined yet or renewed your membership, or would just like to donate, I urged you to do so. The easiest way is to follow this link <https://cityofcastlehills.com/2205/Castle-Hills-Community-Organization> and click on "pay membership dues". It is a PayPal link and everything is done securely.

Thank you and stop by and say hello at our next activity!

JOHN KENNY, *President CHCO*

NATIONAL NIGHT OUT OCTOBER 2ND



City Of Castle Hills To Join Cities Nationwide For "America's Night Out Against Crime"

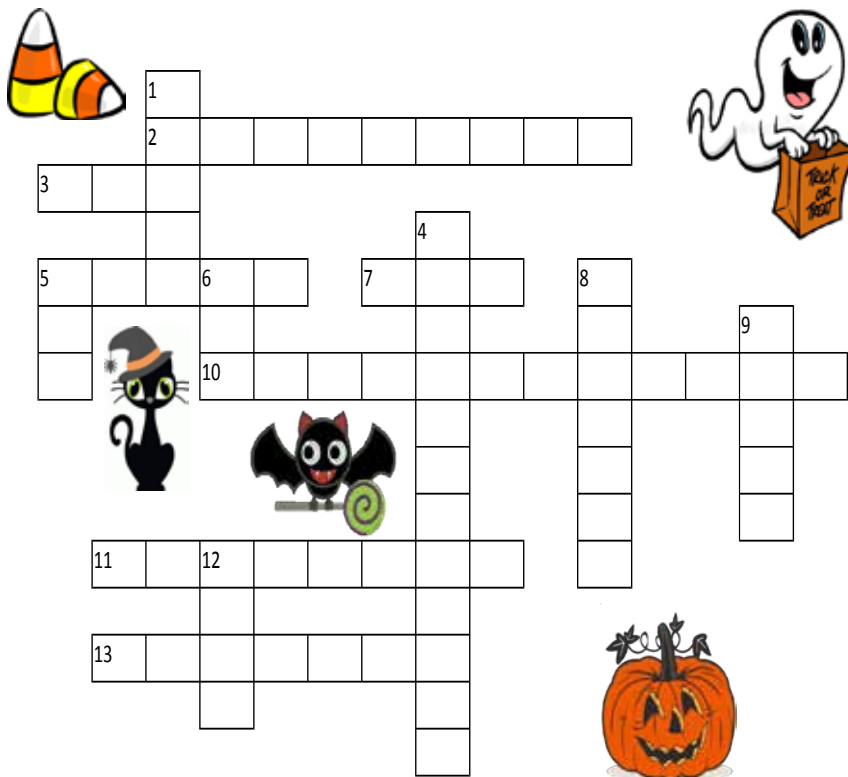
On Tuesday October 2nd, neighborhoods throughout the City of Castle Hills are being invited to join forces with thousands of communities nationwide for the "35th Annual National Night Out" (NNO) crime and drug prevention event. National Night Out, which is sponsored by the National Association of Town and Watch (NATW) and co-sponsored locally by the Castle Hills Police Department, will involve over 16,500 communities from all 50 states, U.S. territories, Canadian cities and military bases around the world. NNO corporate sponsors are Dietz & Watson, Ring, Associa and Package Guard.

National Night Out is designed to: (1) Heighten crime and drug prevention awareness; (2) Generate support for, and participation in, local anti-crime efforts; (3) Strengthen neighborhood spirit and police-community partnerships; and (4) Send a message to criminals letting them know neighborhoods are organized and fighting back.

From 7 to 10 p.m. on October 2nd, residents in neighborhoods throughout the City of Castle Hills and across the nation, are asked to lock their doors, turn on outside lights, and spend the evening outside with neighbors and police. Many neighborhoods throughout the City of Castle Hills will be hosting a variety of special events such as block parties, cookouts, visits from police, contests, youth activities, and anti-crime rallies.

National Project Coordinator Matt Peskin said, "This is a night for America to stand together to promote awareness, safety, and neighborhood unity. National Night Out showcases the vital importance of police-community partnerships and citizen involvement in our fight to build a safer nation. On NNO, we invite neighborhoods nationwide to join us in Giving Crime & Drugs A Going Away Party."

In 2013, the Castle Hills community hosted seven block parties and 2017 saw fourteen block parties. With your assistance, we could surpass 2017's participation record. If you are interested in hosting a block party, please contact either Lieutenant Wayne Waggoner or Valorie Medellin at the Castle Hills Police Department for more information, (210) 342-2341.



ACROSS

2. Costumed holiday.
3. Ghostly surprise greeting.
5. Cackling cauldron cook.
7. Flying cave dweller.
10. Ding-dong! " _____!"
11. Orange gourds
13. Appropriate outfit for the holiday.

DOWN

1. Spooky specter
4. Carved orange gourd.
5. Spider's creation.
6. Cauldron cook's familiar.
8. The month this holiday falls in.
9. Sugary treats!
12. Facial disguise.

ANSWERS on page 15>>

Castle Hills Woman's Club

Dear Friends,

"The quality of a friend is one who can touch your heart and soul from across the room or across the world," As we begin the 66th year of the Castle Hills Woman's Club, this quote seemed appropriate. For 65 years, our organization has created lifelong friendships. Our members began by filling the need the city had and, in the process,

created women sharing, caring and helping one another. Whether it's a new neighbor we have welcomed, a returning member who took a little time off or a member who has been there from the start, it's refreshing to witness this comradeship.

Our officers have been hard at work over the summer, researching and brainstorming to create some entertaining, meaningful, fun-filled and insightful programs for the coming year.

If you have an interest in finding out what the Castle Hills Woman's Club is all about, please email me at barnesrus@sbcglobal.net or castlehillswomansclub@gmail.com for more information! Thank you for your interest

Bernie Barnes, President
Castle Hills Woman's Club



go green

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PUBLIC WORKS



Recycling

Recycling is a multi-faceted process that is driven by a variety of factors. For many, recycling is a way to reduce their waste and their personal footprint on the planet. For others, recycling is a way to control costs. When the commodities markets for recyclables are strong, cities are actually paid for the loads they bring to the recycling center. Unfortunately, in the early 2000's when cities went to single-stream recycling (you no longer had to separate the paper from the plastic into different material streams) loads started to become contaminated. As a result, the commodities markets are soft and cities pay to dispose of recyclables.

China is the largest purchaser of recyclables and due to contaminated loads, China is no longer purchasing numerous types of recyclable materials. Waste Management reports that the average contamination rate among communities and businesses sits around 25%. It is estimated that roughly 1 in 4 items placed in a recycling container is not actually recyclable through curbside programs.

The second problem involves contamination based on the quality of the recyclables. Food, human waste, and liquids included with recyclables can contaminate tons of paper or cardboard when it becomes saturated when in contact with the contaminants. When the quality is damaged, the paper and cardboard cannot be recycled and are then discarded at the landfill as trash. Trash costs more to dispose of than processing of recyclables and leads to the need for larger landfills.

New rules from China has placed a cap of 0.5% on recycling contamination. For curbside recycling to be acceptable and viable in the recyclable

commodities market, the 25% contamination rate of today must reach virtually zero for those items to be recycled.

It sounds terribly difficult to achieve the zero-contamination rate, but actually it begins at each household and business. A few simple rules make all the difference:

1. **Recycle all empty bottles, cans, paper and cardboard.** Lightly rinse empty containers and let them dry-out;
2. **Keep food, liquids and baby/adult diapers out of your recycling;**
3. **Do not place recycling in plastic kitchen garbage bags or yard bags or recycle them with your shopping bags.** Plastic trash bags cannot be recycled and contaminate the load. Plastic shopping bags can be recycled, but must be bundled together in a single bag making a ball about the size of a soccer ball. Tie the handles of the outer bag to keep the rest contained. Loose plastic shopping bags damage the sorting equipment.

Only three easy rules can make your recycling efforts a reality and not another load of trash headed to the landfill. Of course, all of this makes your sanitation fees go further. When the city pays more for disposal than we collect in sanitation fees, your rates must go up. By practicing clean recycling, we can hold down costs, practice environmentally sound disposal, and together we make a difference.

Rick Harada and Staff
Public Works

For additional information: <http://mediaroom.wm.com/the-battle-against-recycling-contamination-is-everyones-battle/>

SINGLE STREAM RECYCLING!

The City of Castle Hills has an efficient, highly inclusive Recycling program! We recycle all of our items through Waste Management, which means that we recycle the same items as the surrounding neighborhoods of San Antonio.

You may purchase Recycle bins at the City Hall Administrative Office for \$10 (lids are an additional \$5.) For your convenience, you may also use an empty 30 gallon garbage can. Simply mark the can as "Recycle" so that we know to pick it up on collection day. Please be sure that the recycle can does not have anything else in it, such as garbage, leaves, brush, etc.

We have created a list of all the recyclable items that can be placed in your recycle bins, and we hope that this new list will help make your recycling

efforts much easier.

RECYCLE PICKUP:

South Side = WEDNESDAY/ Recycling must be placed out before 7am for collection.

North Side = THURSDAY/ Recycling must be placed out before 7am for collection.

These items are NOT RECYCLABLE: Foam Cups/Containers (take-out containers), Wet newspapers, Food Waste, Food Contaminated Cardboard/Paperboard, Plastic Wrap, Films, Construction Materials, Windows, Broken Glass, Light Bulbs, Mirrors.

Thank you for recycling!
Castle Hills Public Works Dept.

YOU CAN RECYCLE THESE ITEMS:

- Carton/Paperboard (like Cereal Boxes)
- Paper Cardboard/Dairy/Juice Containers
- Newspapers (DRY only*)
- Magazines
- Office Paper
- Brown paper Bags
- Cardboard (flattened and DRY*)
- Phone Books
- Plastic Bags (must be collected and tied all in one plastic bag, like a soccer ball)
- Plastic Bottles/Containers (numbers 1 through 7)
- Aluminum Cans
- Tin or Steel Cans
- Glass Bottles and Jars
- Junk Mail

**All paper materials (newspaper, cardboard, phone books, etc.) must be clean and DRY to avoid contamination, as the sorting and processing machinery can be damaged by soiled materials*



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CITY SNAPSHOTS



At the August City Council meeting Chief Dover and Mayor Howell thank Captain Duggan for his 37 years of dedicated service to Castle Hills. During his firefighting career Captain Duggan was one of the founding members of Texas Task Force One, the FEMA Emergency Response Team for Texas. This group of fire fighters commit to helping during times of disaster. Captain Duggan spent time in New York City after terrorist brought down the Twin Towers on September 11th. He assisted with search efforts across North Texas after the Challenger Space Shuttle Disaster, and braved the floodwaters helping with rescue efforts in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina.

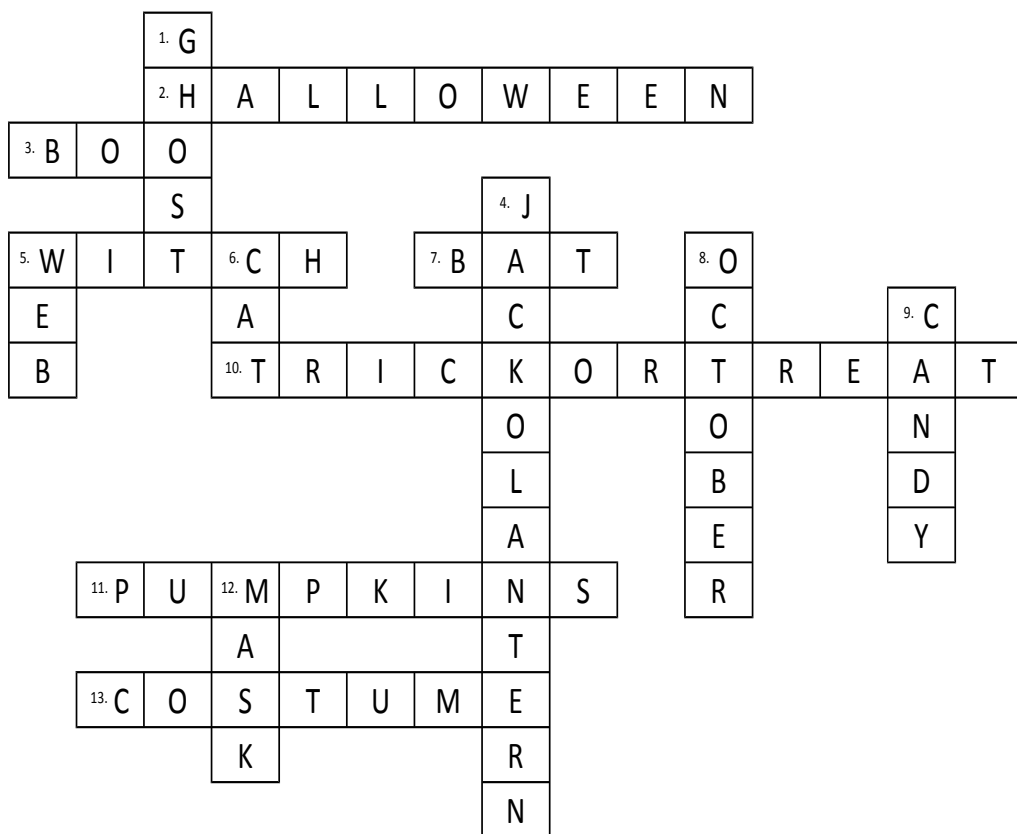
Captain Duggan prior to joining CHFD worked for the City of Olmos Park and the Town of Hollywood Park with a combined total of 42 years in fire service. We offer Captain Duggan a sincere thank you and wish him the best in his new pursuits.



Images of the devastation and the Texas firefighters with Texas Task Force One in New York City after the 9/11 terror attacks. Images taken by Capt. Duggan while deployed with Texas Task Force One.



Athletes from LEE High School have a photo shoot with members of the Castle Hill Police Association.



Answer Key

Across:

- 2. Halloween
- 3. Boo
- 5. Witch
- 7. Bat
- 10. Trick or Treat
- 11. Pumpkins
- 13. Costume

Down:

- 1. Ghost
- 4. Jack o Lantern
- 5. Web
- 6. Cat
- 8. October
- 9. Candy
- 12. Mask

Shweiki



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