

November/December 2018



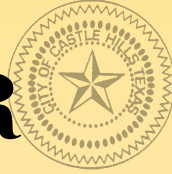
The Castle Hills **Reporter**

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MESSAGE FROM THE MAYOR



"Failing to plan is planning to fail." This quote is often used and dates back to one of the founding fathers whose wisdom shaped our great nation, Benjamin Franklin. As I am writing this article I am reflecting on the thoughtful professional effort Mr. Rapelye and the city staff put into the preparation of the FY2019 municipal budget which goes into effect on January 1, 2019.

The proposed budget reflected a balance budget that maintained present levels of service and continued to fund the streets and drainage special funds. The decision by council to eliminate jobs and freeze hiring causes me to pause and contemplate how can the remaining staff meet the day to day demands to maintain the present level of service?

Stop by city hall between 1 p.m. and 5 p.m. on a court Thursday (if you can find a parking place). The court clerk and deputy clerk are busy in the courtroom with intake and final resolution paperwork for several hundred violators who have come to have their day in court and meet with the prosecutor and judge. During court, the permit clerk continues to schedule inspections, answers calls regarding permits, processes permit applications at the permit window, or that are faxed or emailed. The day's inspection reports must be entered into the computer. A failed inspection requires calling the contractor to share the news of the failed inspection, collection of the re-inspection fees, and discuss re-inspection. If the inspection is for a Certificate of Occupancy, a gas test or certain electrical inspections, then the permit clerk must call CPS Energy to release the meter so the gas or electric service can be restored or started. Citizens are also stopping by to pay for police reports or fingerprint cards, stopping by to ask questions about variances from the zoning code, or maybe a solicitor needs to have a background check to apply for a solicitor's permit. All the while, the permit clerk is processing payments from violators who must make a payment as they finalize their court case. These thoughts generate an even better question – what if the permit clerk is ill, has a family emergency, or is on vacation? Who will be left on staff that has the knowledge and skills to juggle all these tasks which must be done that day? Who is this person's back up? Right now, the administrative assistant is trained to serve as the back-up and the Public Works admin assistant has some cross training to fill in if both are unavailable due to training, illness or a family emergency. If both the permit clerk and the Public Works admin positions are eliminated who fills in when the only employee left is ill or takes vacation? Better yet, who will conduct the intake

of zoning, ARC and BOA cases, who will meet with developers, assist with the preparation of this bimonthly newsletter, assist with open records requests related to permits, assist with document retrieval in lawsuits and mediation cases, and juggle the many other tasks that walk in the door on a daily basis?

Are we planning to fail? Public Works is struggling with reduced manpower due to the council imposed hiring freeze. When a business operates so lean that an employee absence results in a manpower shortage and streets are not being crack sealed, dogs at large are not being pick-up, city property is not being maintained, and the department head must drive one of the sanitation trucks, again, I have to ask, are we planning to fail?

The continuation of services depends on qualified knowledgeable staff members. Not only is our staff knowledgeable, they are friendly and go out of their way to be polite, caring, understanding and willing to provide the best service possible. I am often at city hall several times each day, and each time I am impressed by the professionalism I witness as our staff assist citizens.

Improving our drainage and streets is a priority, but at what price? Are you willing to endure a reduction in services such as once weekly trash pick-up? Can accounts payable, payroll, HR, financial statements, financial forecasting for budgeting, management of financials for streets and drainage projects all be achieved without the assistant in finance? Will this impact the council's ability to achieve the goals of the city without this level of financial services?

I fear we are failing to plan which is a recipe for failure. Please share your thoughts and concerns with me and the city council.

A special thank you to the hosts of the 16 National Night Out block parties! Building strong communities requires getting to know your neighbors and working together with our first responders to prevent crime. Castle Hills residents continue to step up and work with each other making our community safer.

Cheryl and I wish you and your family a very safe and happy holiday season! As you plan for wonderful holiday gatherings, we at city hall will continue to plan for the success of our community.

Timothy A Howell

Mayor – City of Castle Hills, Texas
mayortimehowell@gmail.com

CITY COUNCIL

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Place 3
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Johnny Siemens
Police Department Chief
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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



Highlights of the Council-Manager Form of Government:

In the council-manager form of city government, the City Council establishes laws and policy decisions for the City Manager to implement and follow-through with the staff in the organization. The intent is to combine a strong leadership of elected officials with an experienced individual who is appointed as City Manager with authority to oversee and manage the organization on a day-to-day basis.

The Council-Manager form of government is used in cities and counties large and small. Most small cities use the council-manager form of government. Some large cities have retained a strong mayor form government. The council-manager form of government was fashioned to fight corruption and unethical behavior by fostering professionalism, transparency, responsiveness, and accountability. The Council-Manager form is adaptable to local conditions and preferences. This form is most popular in cities 5,000 and larger, 141 cities out of 237 cities over 100,000 population and 284 cities in Texas have established this governance according to the Texas City Management Association.

In a council-manager form of government, the city manager's role is to be the chief operating officer of the government organization. This is equivalent to the private sector in what a CEO does for a company. The city manager oversees the day-to-day operations of the city and serves as the chief advisor to the city council.

As part of the daily oversight, the City Manager is responsible for ensuring effective

and efficient government service. City employees answer to the City Manager and this framework is usually illustrated in the City's organizational chart and formulated through a "chain of command." The City Manager recommends City policy for consideration by the City Council. Under a professional obligation, the City Manager must provide unbiased and accurate information for City Council to deliberate policy.

During this process, the City Manager consults with the department heads and City Attorney. Staff must provide all the necessary and correct information for City Council's review and/or action on policy decisions in the future. The City Manager prepares an annual budget for the City Council's consideration; recruits, hires, and supervises the organization's staff, and carries out the council's policies. Council members and citizens count on the City Manager to provide complete and objective information, pros and cons of alternatives, and long-term consequences.

The City Council is the legislative body for the city. Its role is to adopt ordinances and policies to govern the city. The City Council consigns the implementation to the City Manager and the rest of City staff. The City Council also focuses on the community's goals, major projects, and such long-term considerations as community growth, land use development, capital improvement plans, and strategic planning. The council hires a professional manager to carry out the

administrative responsibilities and supervises the manager's performance.

In a Council-Manager form of government, the City Manager and the City Council must work collectively and the City Council establishes the necessary governance system. In this governance system, the City Council must work collectively in some capacity in order to provide the priorities of City Council for the City Manager to carry out and translate to staff within an organization.

Council-Manager form has a long history in Texas and is similar to a business approach. Under the Council-Manager form, the Mayor and Council are in control. Ideally this form allows for the Mayor and Council to have more time for the big picture items and looking to the future. Benefits under this allow for the continuity of ongoing plans and operations, professionalism of department heads and key officials and minimizes politically-motivated decisions in daily operations such as personnel.



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COUNCIL COMMENTS

CLYDE R. McCORMICK PLACE 1



Well! At least the budget is put to bed!

Couple of minor items: Did you know we have a library in City Hall? We

have many shelves of books in the Community Room and in Council Chambers. They are open business hours most weekdays. I have been told it is common for folks to treat these as an exchange library, borrowing one or more books and returning them later.

Did you know we have only one "Park" in Castle Hills? I believe the "commons" is the only public park in the city.

Civility still seems to be a problem. Don't understand why folks lose their manners in political venues. It really isn't OK to treat each other or the "Opposition" without respect, to make unfounded accusations, or to cast insults. What the world needs is NOT a louder catcall or a shriller Haridan.

The surest way to measure a man's character is to give him power and see what he does with it. When the power of evil takes command of a nation or any group of citizens or power of government and the bullies get to be in charge remember: If you fail to act when they come for your neighbor, you have no complaint when they come for you.

A useful thought:

"We all have a tendency to surrender our moral authority to "The Group," to still our own voices and assume the group will handle whatever difficult issue we face. We imagine the group is making thoughtful decisions, and if the crowd is moving in a certain direction, we follow, as if the group is some moral entity larger than ourselves. In the face of the herd, our tendency is to go quiet and let the group's brain and soul handle things. Of course, the group has no brain or soul separate from each of ours. But by imagining that the group has these centers, we abdicate responsibility, which allows all groups to be hijacked by

the loudest voice [the bully], the person who knows how brainless groups really are and uses that to his advantage."

James Comey, "A Higher Loyalty"

I wish you all a Happy Holiday season! "Treat each other Excellently!" (Bill & Ted's Excellent Adventure)

MARETTA SCOTT PLACE 2



AMY MCLIN PLACE 3



We were honored to represent the City of Castle Hills at the Texas Municipal League Annual Conference in Ft. Worth with City Manager Rapelye from October 10-12. We attended seminars about: (1) advocating for your city during the next legislative session, (2) being a game changer, (3) strategic facilities planning for small cities, (4) the infrastructure crisis in the United States, (5) attracting retail development, (6) short term rental ordinances vs. legislation, and (6) funding infrastructure projects. Connecting with city leaders and city staff from around the state gave us great opportunities to talk best practices and the trade show resulted in contacts for current mosquito spraying machinery and techniques, targeted economic development, and recreational facilities.

There is an infrastructure crisis in the United States. According to the 2017 Infrastructure Report Card from the American Society of Civil Engineers, America's cumulative grade is a D+ (poor, at risk) and Texas gets a C- (Mediocre, Needs Attention). Aging infrastructure, lack of planning, and misplaced pride in deferred maintenance are all causes. We learned that infrastructure has a never-ending life cycle. Most planning is for the first cycle. Rarely is there any planning for the cost of the second cycle which starts approximately 35 years after the infrastructure was installed. Mr. Charles Marohn went so far as to state not investing properly in infrastructure is never responsible.

The situation overall is extremely bleak, but the City of Castle Hills is well positioned to overcome years of negative development decisions to continue to be financially strong, become resilient, and able to fund facility and infrastructure needs well into the next

generation. Our City has already taken some steps towards having a Strategic Facilities Plan. The council's strategic planning retreat in February gives us the City Vision Statement and the basis for the City's Strategic Plan. City Manager Rapelye quickly recognized the need for a Capital Improvement Plan and he located our existing Drainage Master Plan.

We learned that what we have been working on is just the beginning of compiling a "SMART Plan" which is what tax payers expect today – a plan that is Reasonable, Accountable, Transparent, and Efficient. A SMART Plan builds trust and trust builds consistent leadership. The typical plans of "we have always done it that way" and "squeaky wheel gets the grease" are not sufficient planning tools for selecting projects of any kind.

Connecting our infrastructure to our City's Vision Statement is an important part of the process. Added to the plans listed above we need a Parks Master Plan, a Comprehensive Plan, and a Facility Plan. This process is comprehensive in nature and includes cross-infrastructure prioritization. Everything the City maintains, operates, needs, and wants over the next ten plus years should be listed, considered and studied during this process. Once you have the SMART Plan you can research the funding. Funding can be in any combination of street fees, drainage fees, impact fees, tax increases, bonds, or loans. Long term funding of future maintenance and reserves for repairs can be accomplished by strategic planning of economic development that preserves the wealth (tax base) of the City.

The Strategic Facilities Plan should be reviewed annually and updated every 2-5 years. It must be sustainable. It is a legacy document that survives elections and changes in council and staff. City management of infrastructure needs is not a game with a set time limit and a win at the end. You have to play with long term endurance because this is a game that never ends.

Thank you to the Texas Municipal League for having our backs as Texas Cities and Towns. Your educational opportunities to learn best practices and to gather as elected officials and city staff to have roundtable discussions about pressing issues help us best serve our citizens.

Call us. We are here for you!

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amclin@castlehills-tx.gov

"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."

LESLEY WENGER

Mayor Pro-Tem, PLACE 4

**Farewell to Friends
& Notable Neighbors**

Usually written at the beginning of each year, this is a homage to some of the fascinating people we have been privileged to have as our neighbors—many of whose life stories we were not entirely aware of. Since we sadly lost so many friends in 2018, this year I am splitting the list, with the second section to appear in the January issue.

Joe Dunwoody (January 11) husband of Judge Martha Tanner, was born in Troy, New York and graduated from Amherst College and Officer Candidate School after which he was commissioned an Ensign in the U.S. Navy. He served for two years aboard the destroyer USS Vogelgesang and then became an English instructor at the Naval Preparatory School in Maryland before moving to NYC. His restless spirit took him to Mexico in the 1960s where he taught English, between travels around the country. During his sojourn he also worked as an actor in the sitcom "Lupita y Johnny" and spent two years at the Instituto Tecnológico de Monterrey where he received his Master's degree in Spanish Language and Literature. He returned to the U.S. to accept a position at San Antonio College where he taught Spanish and ESL for 30 years. Joe loved to ski, play tennis and the piano and of course to travel. He was a lifelong Democrat and an avowed liberal who wrote many op-eds on his political viewpoints that were published in the Express-News. But he remained an open-minded, ebullient individual who was happy to discuss differing points of view without rancor during his walks around Castle Hills with his dog Sam, and he is deeply missed by all who knew him.

Andres Maldonado (January 14) a resident for over 40 years, was born in Puerto Rico to humble beginnings and learned to persevere in life despite losing his father at a very young age. Enlisting in the U.S. Army at Fort Buchanan in PR, he was commissioned as a Staff Sergeant. After moving to San Antonio he studied accounting at Trinity University and met his wife Pauline. Together they became charter members of St. Gregory the Great Catholic Church, raised a family and celebrated their 60th anniversary before her death in 2008. After several

years working for the IRS, he opened his own accounting firm Maldonado & Associates serving a diverse group of clientele including numerous prominent politicians, attorneys and physicians for over 60 years, continuing to work to the end. Eventually he was joined by his son Jose Luis and then by his grandsons. A life-long Democrat and activist, Andres was a loyal member of LULAC, MALDEF, the West Side Lions Club and the Puerto Rican Heritage Society, all of which he served in various positions. Appreciated for his sense of humor and generosity, he spent weekends at his ranch or hunting, enjoyed boating, fishing off the Texas coast and rooting for the Spurs. Singing and dancing were another passion, in later years he dined at Ernesto's Restaurant every Friday night, loved to sing "Las Mananitas" to anyone who was celebrating a birthday and was an aficionado of Mariachi music.

Eunise Hermes Davidson (January 16) was a UIW graduate with a BA in Arts & Music, subsequently earning an MBA from Trinity. Her career evolved into ranching, investments and real estate, but as time-consuming as her work was, her talent as a singer and pianist led to work in television and she generously performed in musical shows for various charity functions. Eunise's favorite hobbies were traveling which she combined with playing duplicate bridge on her world-wide

*Continued on page 12>>***DOUGLAS GREGORY**
PLACE 5

The 2019 Budget has been put to bed. The highlights are 1) There is no property tax rate increase, 2) No patrol officer or firefighter has been eliminated, and 3)

Six positions in other departments have been

removed; three of which have not been filled for years.

In previous columns, I have discussed applying the cost-benefit analysis as one measurement to keep or omit a City position. In three of the six positions there had not been anyone proposed for those jobs, and rather than setting money aside for positions that may never be filled, they were eliminated. This does not mean if a qualified person is fit for the position and reasonable economic argument can be made to justify the position, that job can be reconsidered.

There are three other positions that cannot be rationally justified at this time. One in particular does not pass the economic test, the permit clerk. In 2013, the position was managed by a staff member as one of their various duties. There was a minor uptick in permit revenue in 2015, in which a temp was brought on to help out. In 2016, another uptick occurred so that the temp position became a full time job. However, 2016 was the peak year. Now, 2019 revenue projections are expected to be lower than 2013 levels. Consequently, we eliminated this full time position and returned to how we managed six years ago.

The City Council has the responsibility to try and spend the Taxpayer's money prudently. If we ever bring another street/drainage bond proposal forward for your consideration, the City must be able to demonstrate that our own house is in order.

The City is not an employment agency. When the economic needs of the City require more employees, we should hire. When there is only a slight or no economic justification for any position, the position must be eliminated. This is not rocket science. As we move forward we should do what makes economic sense. Doing anything less is an insult to the Taxpayer.

Douglas A. Gregory
Alderman Place 5, City Treasurer
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COUNCIL MEETING

HIGHLIGHTS



August 21, 2018 | City Council Special Meeting/Budget Work Session #4

- City Council postponed consideration of the RFQ's for the City Attorney position to August 27th and interviews on August 30th. Council postponed consideration of the America Eagle Castle Hills, LLC Project and Issuance of Senior Living Revenue Bonds to August 30th.
- Council approved Resolution No. R18-08-21-B and appointed to the Ad hoc MPO Project Committee Jack Joyce, Place 1; Bernard Juettemeyer, Place 2; Tanya Garza, Place 3; Mark Sanderson, Place 4; Robert D. Riley, Place 5; John Squire, Place 6; Council Liaison, Councilman McCormick to prepare project proposals for the Alamo Area Metropolitan Planning Organization RFP's.
- Discussed the City Manager's Proposed FY 2019 Budget.

August 30, 2018 | City Council Special Meeting/Budget Work Session #5

- City Council postponed consideration of the America Eagle Castle Hills, LLC Project, Issuance of Senior Living Revenue Bonds/Pilot Agreement.
- Council postponed the appointment of the City Attorney position to September 11th.

September 11, 2018 | City Council Regular Meeting

The City Council took the following action:

- Approved the Financial Report ending July 31, 2018 and meeting minutes for April 10 and April 30, 2018.
- Tabled Minutes for June 12, July 24, July 31, and August 30th to the next regular meeting.
- Approved Resolution R18-09-11-A, authorizing the City Manager to sign a contract with Langley & Banack Inc., to provide legal services as the City Attorney.
- Approved Ordinance No. 2018-09-11-A, amending Chapter 6, Animals Article IV. of the Code of Ordinances, Section 6-151 to clarify the standard of care required of animal owners.
- Approved Resolution No. R18-08-30-B, approving a PILOT agreement (payment in lieu of taxes) with American Eagle Portfolio Project for the acquisition of the Brookdale Senior Facility.
- Approved Resolution No. R18-08-30-A, approving, solely for the purpose of section 147(f) of the Internal Revenue Code, the issuance by the Capital Trust Agency of its Senior Living Revenue Bonds (American Eagle Portfolio Project), Series 2018, for the purpose of financing the senior living facilities therein described, one of which is located in the city; and providing an effective date.

September 12, 2018 | City Council Special Meeting

The City Council took the following action:

- Held a Public Hearing on the Proposed FY 2019 Budget.
- Discussed the City Manager's proposed FY 2019 Budget.
- Received the Crime Control Prevention Districts (CCPD) Adopted FY 2019 Budget for review and scheduled a public hearing on October 9, 2018.

September 18, 2018 | City Council Special Meeting

The City Council took the following action:

- Unanimously accepted The Architectural Review Committee's recommendation to approve Rapid Express Carwash, 2259 NW Military Hwy, for the addition of a new retaining wall and sidewalk for reconfiguring of drive lanes on the property, installation of a new central vacuum system and canopy, construction of two CMU enclosures for vacuum system and dumpster, installation of two pay stations, installation of a tower to enclose new water storage tanks, installation of a new sign at the same height and size as existing but in a new location, and removal of the following protected trees – three oak trees, one American elm and two hackberry trees, and planting of replacement trees.
- Held the second public hearing on the proposed FY2019 Budget, and approved Ordinance No. 2018-09-18-A, adopting FY 2019 Operating Budget for the City of Castle Hills.
- Approved Ordinance No. 2018-09-18-B, adopting the 2018 Tax Rate of \$0.501345 for the City of Castle Hills.
- Ratified the property tax increase reflected in the FY 2019 Budget.

October 4, 2018 | City Council Special Meeting

The City Council adopted a form for the evaluation of the City Manager.

October 9, 2018 | City Council Regular Meeting

The City Council took the following action:

- Approved Ordinance No. 2018-09-18-B, adopting the 2018 Tax Rate of \$0.501345.
- Approved the Financial Report ending August 31, 2018 and tabled Minutes for June 12, July 24, July 31, August 30, and September 18th to the next regular meeting.
- Accepted the Architectural Review Committee's recommendation to approve application submitted by David Lewis, agent for property owners Jeff and Traci Garvens for tree removal for construction of a new single-family residence on an undeveloped lot located at 107 Hibiscus Lane.
- Approved Ordinance No. 2018-10-09-B, amending Chapter 26, "Nuisances" to create article VI establishing the declaration of nuisance generating properties, appellate procedures, registration and bond regulations, and civil and criminal penalties.
- Approved Ordinance No. 2018-10-09-C, amending the schedule of fees for "Live Trap Rentals" and "Parades" as contained in Ordinance 2018-04-30-B; and repealing all ordinances or parts of ordinances inconsistent or in conflict herewith.
- Directed the City Manager to extend the hiring freeze on full-time, part-time, contract hires, and position changes in all city departments until January 15, 2019, unless sooner resolved by Council.
- Discussed the previously prepared Capital Improvement Plans (CIP) to include streets, drainage, and building improvements, set an order of priority due to urgency and importance.
- Discussed the possibility of Texas Parks and Wildlife Grants.

MAKE FOOD SAFETY A HOLIDAY TRADITION



I can remember when rinsing off the turkey in the kitchen sink was a holiday tradition. My mom and grandmother all rinsed the turkey off prior to putting it in the oven. Food scientists now caution that rinsing raw turkeys and raw meats in the kitchen sink may do more harm than good.

In one study, food scientists found that Salmonella and other bacteria can become airborne and transported up to three feet while rinsing raw poultry and meat. Take a quick look in your own kitchen; what's within three feet of your sink?

You can expect to find some amount of bacteria on raw poultry and meats; that's why we cook these foods to a specific temperature during cooking. Different products have different cooking temperatures. For poultry, the safe cooking temperature is 165 degrees F for 15 seconds. The only way to determine if a turkey has reached 165 degrees is to use a food thermometer. If the safe cooking temperature has not been reached continue cooking the bird.

Frying turkeys in deep-fat fryers has become a trend. If frying the holiday turkey is a tradition in your house keep in mind that fire departments in the US have to respond to more than 1,000 fires during November that are caused by frying turkeys. Statistics from the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) indicate that deep-fat fryer fires result in more than \$15 million in property damage each year. Hot oil splatter can cause serious burns and life threatening injuries to adults and children. In one study Texas leads the nation in turkey frying accidents.

Make having a safe Holiday Season a tradition every year. Before you start thawing your turkey or deep-fat frying it, take a few minutes to read "Food Safety Tips for Healthy Holidays" from the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and "Deep Fat Frying and Food Safety" from the US Department of Agriculture (USDA). Both of these safety guidelines are available at the following Website: <http://www.foodsafesa.com/talking-turkey>

Homer Emery, RS

City Health Inspector



MUNICIPAL COURT HOLIDAY DRIVING

The holidays are about to begin and the roadways are going to be busy with family and friends trying to reach their holiday destinations. Whether you are visiting family or just getting out of town for a vacation, this time of year can be stressful for travelers. The following are safe traveling tips:

- Take your vehicle in for a tune-up and make all necessary repairs.
- Review your itinerary and determine how long it will take you to reach your destination.
- Print out a map to your destination. We have become accustomed to a global position system (GPS) but a hard copy of the map to your destination is always handy.
- If you are traveling to another state review their traffic laws so you don't get a ticket.
- Don't allow the luggage you are bringing block your rear view.
- Take rest breaks on long driving trips.
- Don't forget to pack snacks and drinks.
- If traveling with children make sure you have the appropriate child safety seats properly installed.
- Bring entertainment for child passengers. You can look up fun car games on the internet that will keep them entertained.
- Make sure all passengers are buckled in properly.

I hope you have an enjoyable holiday season with family and friends and remember to drive safe! As always, Drive Safe!

Tina Zelenak

Court Clerk

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Castle Hills Resident



Holiday Fire Safety Tips

As this issue of the Castle Hills Reporter reaches our great residents, the holidays will be quickly approaching. It's fun to decorate for the winter holidays, but holiday decorations can increase your risk for a home fire. As you deck the halls this season, be fire smart!

Facts about home holiday fires

- One of every four home Christmas tree fires is caused by electrical problems.
- Between 2009-2014, U.S. fire departments responded to an average of **210 home fires** per year that started with Christmas trees. U.S. fire departments responded to an estimated average of **860 home structure fires** per year that began with decorations, excluding Christmas trees.
- Although Christmas tree fires are not common, when they do occur, they are more likely to be serious. **On average, one of every 32 reported home Christmas tree fires results in a death compared to an average of one death per 143 total reported home fires.**
- A heat source too close to the tree causes one in every four Christmas tree fires.
- The top three days for home candle fires are Christmas, New Year's Day, and Christmas Eve.
- Candles start two out of five home decoration structure fires.
- A heat source too close to the Christmas tree causes in 1 every 4 of the fires.

Fire safety tips for the holidays

- Inspect holiday lights each year before you put them up. Throw away light strands with frayed or pinched wires.
- Read and follow the manufacturer's instructions for the number of light strands to connect.
- Water your Christmas tree every day. A dry tree is dangerous because it can catch on fire easily.
- Consider using battery-operated flameless candles, which can look, smell and feel like real candles.
- If you do use lit candles, make sure they are in stable holders and place them where they cannot be knocked down easily.
- Keep candles at least 12 inches away from anything that burns.
- Get rid of your tree after Christmas or when it is dry.
- Make sure your tree does not block any exits.
- Make sure your tree is at least 3 feet away from any heat sources.

For more information, visit <https://www.usfa.fema.gov> or you may always call or come by the fire station. From all of us at the Castle Hills Fire Department, we wish all of you a very Merry Christmas, and a happy New Year. Thank you all for your continued support of the fire department, and stay safe!

Chief Darrell Dover

Castle Hills Fire Department

Package Thefts

During the holiday season, the Castle Hills Police Department sees an upward trend in package thefts. This happens, in large part, to online shopping for gifts and those packages are subsequently delivered to our residence. Additionally, family members send gifts through the mail, which adds to the number of packages being delivered. These packages tend to be delivered during the day when most of us are away from our homes. These packages are left on the front porch in plain sight, making it an easy target of opportunity for thieves. These package thefts can be quite costly, disheartening, as well as an inconvenience for our families. So, the dilemma we have is how can we do our online shopping and help ensure the safe delivery of our packages to our homes.

The United States Postal Service has a program that can help with this. Informed Delivery is a service provided free of charge and available in the City of Castle Hills zip code area. This service requires you to create an account, in which your identity is verified, and then you can manage your package deliveries. One way of managing your deliveries is you can leave delivery instructions of your choosing. For example, you can leave instructions requesting your packages not to be left at the front door. You can ask the postal service not to leave packages unless they are given to someone. The program also allows you to reschedule a missed delivery to a different date, possibly when someone is home to accept the delivery.

Informed Delivery will also send you messages on your smart phone, computer or other digital device as notifications allowing you to track package deliveries. These notifications can also include gray scale images of letter size envelopes that will be placed in your mail box as incoming mail. Most of us have received a Christmas card containing a gift card or money. Mail thieves also know this as well and will steal mail from unsecured mailboxes in the hopes of finding those gift cards and money. An image of that Christmas card from a loved one in a notification from the postal service may urge you to empty your mail box that day, thus preventing the theft of your mail.

Unfortunately, many of us have been a victim of mail or package theft at some point in time. Informed Delivery service from the postal service as well as being vigilant in reporting suspicious persons in our neighborhoods are crucial in lowering instances of mail and package thefts. Please visit the United States Postal Service website for more information regarding their Informed Delivery program at informedelivery.usps.com. As always, report suspicious activity by calling the nonemergency telephone number (210)342-2341. The Castle Hills Police Department wishes everyone a wonderful and safe holiday season.



Happy Holidays!
Chief Siemens

Lighting of the Lights

December 2, 2018, 3:30 p.m.

Join in the holiday fun on December 2nd at 3:30 p.m. for sledding, caroling, and time to visit with Santa at the Annual Lighting of the Lights in the Commons.

Hot Chocolate and cookies will be provided. Food trucks will be onsite. Holiday cheer will fill the Commons. The holiday tree will be lit at dusk.

Castle Hills Woman's Club

The Castle Hills Woman's club began our 66th year with a membership mixer on September 10th at a member's home. We welcomed 2 new members and renewed friendships with others. As we moved into October, we heard from author, Natalie Holland about her journey with breast cancer and her lifelong commitment to staying healthy. If you have the opportunity, please read her very moving story as outlined in her book, *Scarred but Smarter*.

We will be entertained as well as educated about the latest trends at our November meeting with a Cabi Fashion show to be held on November 5th and in December we will continue learning all about interior designs trends and colors.

In any of these topics interest you, or if you would like more information about the Castle Hills Woman's Club, please feel free to email us at: castlehillswomansclubs@gmail.com or barnesrus@sbcglobal.net

Bernie Barnes, President
Castle Hills Woman's Club



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PUBLIC WORKS



THANKSGIVING HOLIDAY:

Household Garbage and Recycle **MUST** be out by 7:00 AM
Household Garbage only. NO BRUSH OR LEAVES.

NORTH OF LOOP 410	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI
				CLOSED HOLIDAY	
SOUTH OF LOOP 410	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI
				CLOSED HOLIDAY	

City Holidays 2018

Jan 1	New Year's Day	MONDAY
Jan 15	ML King, Jr. Day	MONDAY
Feb 19	President's Day	MONDAY
April 27	Battle of Flowers Day	FRIDAY
May 28	Memorial Day	MONDAY
July 4	Independence Day	WEDNESDAY
Sept 3	Labor Day	MONDAY
Nov 12	Veterans Day	MONDAY
Nov 22	Thanksgiving Day	THURSDAY
Nov 23	Thanksgiving Day After	FRIDAY
Dec 25	Christmas Day	TUESDAY

Please remember...

**There is NO BRUSH
OR LEAF PICKUP
on a Holiday week.**

Do not put out brush or leaves
as they will not be picked up.
Regular brush and leaf pickup
will resume the following
non-holiday week.

Thank you!

**HOUSEHOLD
GARBAGE**
Limit 3 Cans



RECYCLE
No Limit



Dept of Public Works (210) 293-9676

LIMITS:

BRUSH PILES
Limit 3 Piles



LEAF BAGS
Limit 10
Bags



CHRISTMAS HOLIDAY:

Household Garbage and Recycle **MUST** be out by 7:00 AM
Household Garbage only. NO BRUSH OR LEAVES.

NORTH OF LOOP 410	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI
		CLOSED HOLIDAY			
SOUTH OF LOOP 410	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI
		CLOSED HOLIDAY			

City Holidays 2018

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No Limit



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LIMITS:

BRUSH PILES
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LEAF BAGS
Limit 10
Bags



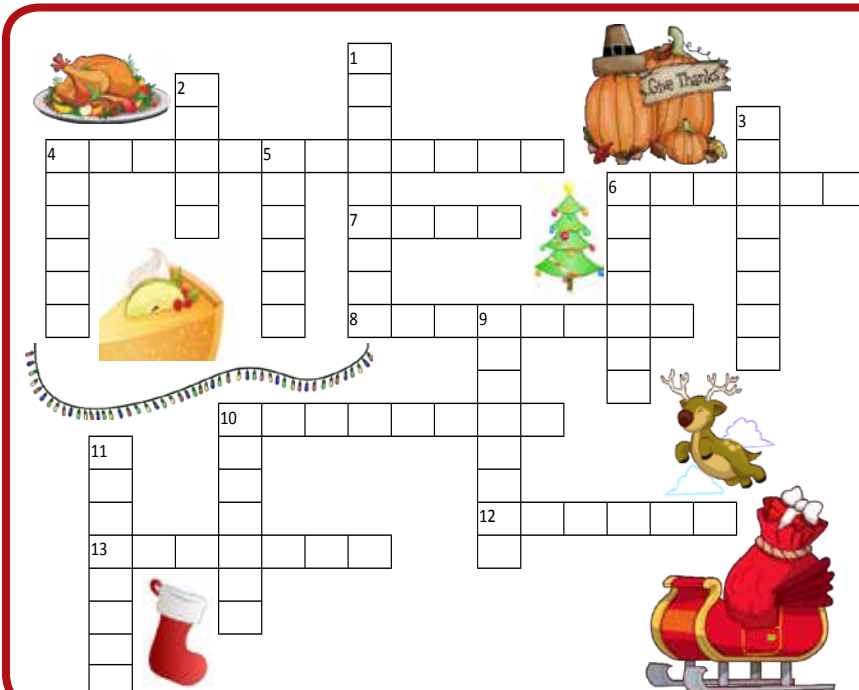
Rev. 12.2017

ACROSS

- A holiday to be grateful for.
- The hungry holiday horde that invades for a week!
- A festive conifer.
- A tasty bread filling.
- Shiny, wrapped surprises!
- Colorful illuminations.
- Santa's favorite snack!

DOWN

- A magical holiday.
- AKA Jolly ol' St. Nick
- Rudolph's family.
- The main course that everyone gobble-gobbles up!
- Santa's hot rod.
- The family you choose.
- Televised ritual combat in the fall.
- Traditional holiday pie.



ANSWERS on page 15 >>



CITY SNAPSHOTS



Dr. Jennifer Krejci with Limmer Hair Transplant Center and Dr. Roger Velasquez Ophthalmologist celebrate the Grand Opening of their practices located at 6810 West Avenue.



City Manager Ryan Rapelye joined in the observance of National Night Out with residents on Parade Drive at the block party hosted at the Boarnet residence.



Bernard Juettemeyer visits with Councilman McCormick and City Manager Rapelye at the National Night Out block party at 115 E Castle Lane.



West Oaks Court celebrated National Night Out at 1 West Oaks Court hosted by the Grahams and Laverne Japhet.



Neighbors gathered for National Night Out at the Handy residence at 121 Riviera Drive pose for a photo with Police Lieutenant Wayne Waggoner.

Go Green

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<< continued from page 4

trips as well as at the Dominion Country Club and at the Assistance League Bridge Club. She was a member of Our Lady of Grace Catholic Church as well as of Club Giraud, The Petroleum Club of SA, The Plaza Club, The Dominion Women's Forum, San Antonio Gardenia & Musical Club and of course The American Contract Bridge League. Finally she was a sponsor for Miss Rodeo Texas Scholarship Program, the San Antonio Assistance League and the Cancer Center Council. Her cherished cousins, friends and husband John Davidson will miss her greatly.

William Yahiel (January 21) was born in Thessalonika, Greece and lived there during the Nazi occupation until he was sent to the Auschwitz concentration camp during WWII at the age of 19. After emerging as the only member of his family to survive, William returned to Thessalonika, found the city devastated with only 2,000 of the original 50,000 Jews having survived. In 1950 he immigrated to the US, originally sent to Atlanta where he encountered racism. Reconnection with a childhood friend brought him to San Antonio where the two friends began a business: State Leather & Shoe Co. Despite his horrific experience during the War, William was a cheerful man who considered himself lucky—often saying he had lived 70 years longer than he was supposed to. He met his beautiful wife, Ginette through his partner's French wife who instigated a letter-writing campaign between William and her best friend in France that culminated in Ginette traveling to San Antonio where he proposed. Together they built a rich life raising a son and daughter in San Antonio, with life-long friends and as members of a tight-knit community. Aside from his children and three granddaughters, he is survived by Ginette, an accomplished painter.

Catherine Ryan (January 26) was born in Fredericksburg, TX and graduated from Santa Rosa School of Nursing as a Registered Nurse. Along with her husband, Patrick, who pre-deceased her, they raised four children and were members of Holy Spirit Catholic Church. Starting with her occupation, but continuing thereafter, Catherine was a caregiver her entire life. A devout Catholic and sports fan she loved the Longhorns, the Spurs and the Cowboys.

Glynda Gail Hibbetts (February 4) was born in Fort Worth, TX but moved to San Antonio and graduated from Thomas Edison HS. She spent her career with Kirkwood and Alamo Asphalt Company while marrying and raising her daughter and two sons. A dedicated mother and grandmother who enjoyed fishing, from a young age, she was also known for her "lucky" casino visits. Notably Glynda and her family were such long-time residents of Castle Hills that Dani Lane, where they lived, was named after her daughter Dani.

Douglas Steadman (February 12) born in Fort Worth, TX, he went on to graduate from UT as part of the U.S. Navy V-12 Program, receiving his BS in Civil Engineering and his commission as an Ensign in the Navy in 1946. After his discharge he received his Master's in Civil Engineering from UT where he was President of the Ramshorn Club and member of honorary societies: Chi Epsilon, Tau Beta Pi and Sigma Xi. Doug and his lovely wife Jurene met in kindergarten, had five children, moved to Castle Hills in 1957 and celebrated their 71st anniversary before he passed. They first moved to San Antonio in 1948 when he became an apprentice engineer at W.E. Simpson & Co.—by the time he retired in 1992 he had become the President, CEO and Chairman of the Board. Doug was a registered

PE in Texas, Arizona and Oklahoma and was active in multiple state and national engineering societies as well as being honored as a Distinguished Engineer of the Texas Engineering Foundation and an Academy of Distinguished Alumni of UT-Austin's Cockrell School of Civil Architecture and Environmental Engineering. During his 50 year career he was responsible for the structural and civil engineering of such significant projects as the Alamodome, the Lila Cockrell Theater for the Performing Arts, the SA International Airport Development, the SA Municipal Auditorium and the Hays Street Bridge redevelopment along with many others. HEB entrusted their corporate site development to his oversight for over 30 years, including the Lighthouse Station near Port Aransas owned by Charles Butt. Aside from his own impressive career, he was a mentor to many other engineers. In other areas he was a Deacon for over 40 years at the West Avenue Church of Christ and a founding member of the University Oaks Church of Christ, a member of the Rotary Club of SA and was active on various committees of the Greater SA and the North SA Chambers of Commerce. In Castle Hills he served for over 20 years on the Zoning Commission, was a Cub Scout Master and mentored students at Castle Hills Elementary as well as at Fox Tech and UTSA. Also a member of the SA Conservation Society, he was awarded the 2002 Conservation Historic Preservation in 2002 for his efforts on behalf of the restoration of the Hays Street Bridge which involved organizing community groups, securing the land and the bridge, raising funds from private and government sources, acting as a point of contact for state and city officials, leading the designation of the bridge as a Texas Historical Civil Engineering Landmark and as Texas Sectional ASCE's 150th Anniversary Project. A crowd of over 300 citizens attended the completion and grand re-opening of the Hays Street Bridge in 2010 which was a capstone. Shameful actions by COSA have followed which have been extensively reported in the Express-News and the Hays Street Bridge Restoration Group is now awaiting a ruling by the Texas Supreme Court.

Helen Hunt (February 19) was born in Healdton, OK and received her BA in Music Education from TWU in Denton, TX. After her marriage to John Hunt in 1981 they joined the Kum Doublers class at Alamo Heights United Methodist Church (AHUMC) which she continued attending after John passed, and began playing the piano for their Sunday School and Thursday Lunch Bunch as well as for communion at The Forum. Helen was a member of AHUMC, Boysville Auxiliary, SA Genealogical Society and Rowdy Widows. She is remembered by friends for her shrewd business sense and her generosity.

Roy McGinnis (February 19) born in Kansas City, MO, moved with his family to Los Angeles, CA during the worst days of the 1930s Depression where his parents separated. Roy helped support his mother and brother with two paper routes in the morning and selling home-baked bread after school. After college he joined the Army Air Corps in 1943, enrolling in officer candidate school and then in the navigation school and was assigned to 1st Photo Reconnaissance Squadron of B-29 Superfortress bombers. He became, at age 21, the youngest navigator to guide a B-29 across the Pacific ultimately landing on Tinian Island in the Northern Marianas. After the war Roy stayed with the Occupation Troops in Okinawa where his squadron's job was to create an aerial survey of China, and he was able to travel throughout Japan, China and the Philippines. Returning to the U.S. in 1948 he spent his poker winnings on a new car and enrolled

continued on page 14>>

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CHOICE
AWARDS

<< continued from page 12

in fighter pilot training school in San Antonio where he met his wife, Carol. High ranking got Roy an invitation to the newly formed Air Force Gunnery School at Nellis AFB in Las Vegas where he became an instructor in P-51s and F-86s for Korea-bound pilots. He flew with the Red Devils aerial and gunnery team till it was disbanded. After leaving the service in 1953, he became a loan officer with a savings & loan in Vegas leading to managerial positions in Del Mar and Eureka, CA. In 1960 Roy and Carol decided to return to Texas when he was offered management of the newly-formed Alamo Savings in SA. In 1968 he joined his builder friend P.J. Burke, Jr. to manage Pecan Valley Country Club and helped host the 1968 PGA golf tournament. After that he started Roy E. McGinnis Construction Company building houses and general contracting with the help of his sons and in 1972 he and Carol built their home in Castle Hills. He served for years on the Chamber of Commerce Military Affairs Committee as the city liaison to the vice commander at Kelly. Roy was particularly proud of the time he spent managing The Winston School of SA when it was having financial difficulties, and was able to bring it back to a healthy state.

Bill Martin (February 27) was born in Wichita, KS, but moved to Dallas, TX where he graduated from Crozier Tech HS and was a member of the basketball team when they won the state championship in 1948. After HS he joined the U.S. Army Reserves and rose to the rank of Chief Warrant Officer W-2 before his discharge. While still enlisted, Bill earned his BA in Business Admin from SMU and went on to a successful 50-year career in the insurance industry, retiring in 1986 as Senior VP of Marketing for Crum & Forster of New Jersey. He returned to Texas with his wife Sandy, moving to Castle Hills, but then accepted a new position as VP of Sales for Catto & Catto Insurance retiring again in 1999. During that period Bill served on the Castle Hills City Council from 1990-93 and was then elected Mayor, serving from 1993-95. Despite choosing not to run for re-election, Bill continued to be active in Castle Hills and never missed a Council Meeting. Additionally he was a Ruling Elder and Trustee of Covenant Presbyterian Church and was appointed Chairman of the VIA Metropolitan Citizens Advisory Council and finally to the VIA Board itself serving until December 2013. Although health issues forced Bill and Sandy to leave Texas in 2014, his final resting place is at Fort Sam Houston.

Virginia Jendrusch (March 4) was born into a family of 8 children in Kosciusko, TX and grew up on a farm during the Depression, picking cotton, yet managing to graduate from Poth H.S. Years later, in her 40s, she went on to graduate from Southwest Texas State U, earning her BA while working fulltime at Fort Sam Houston, and fighting and surviving breast cancer. Not surprisingly, she was known for her persistence and strength. Dedicated to helping others, she went on to a late-life career as a Catholic Life Insurance Rep to ensure that others would not find, as she had after cancer, that they were no longer eligible for health insurance, and did not retire until she was 84. A devout parishioner of Blessed Sacrament Church, she was a member of the Altar Society and Very Special Persons. Before his death, Virginia and Leonard were able to celebrate their 58th Anniversary, having raised four children and been blessed by 12 grandchildren.

Col. Anthony DiBaggio (March 5) a graduate of Ohio University, entered the U.S. Air Force at the onset of the Korean conflict. Over the next 30 years he served in various Staff and Command positions spending many of those years, with his family, at multiple overseas pg.14

installations. Retiring from the USAF in 1979, Anthony and his first wife chose to move to San Antonio where he began a second career as a banking executive and also as a teacher. He is survived by his wife Sherry Johnson, as well as 3 sons, a daughter and two stepdaughters.

Rex McReynolds, MD (March 21) born in Birmingham Michigan, began his Pediatric practice in San Antonio in 1964. Throughout his 41 years of practice his patients considered him a devoted and caring physician. Upon his retirement in 2005 a parent wrote "Our child sometimes asked to visit Dr. Rex just because he loved him". Dr. Rex is survived by his wife Joanne, one son, two daughters, six grandchildren and two great-grandchildren. Always friendly and inquisitive, he enjoyed discussing a wide range of issues with friends and neighbors.

Elizabeth Grist (April 4) a native San Antonian, she attended UT-Austin where she met her husband, Harold. Together they raised three boys while Elizabeth helped her father build Commercial Body Corp. a local truck equipment firm. Settling on several acres in Castle Hills, she also found time to volunteer at St. Luke's Hospital and as a docent at the Steve's Homestead in King William. This led to her involvement in Fredericksburg where she and Harold restored a historic homestead farm at Grapetown, along with other community activities. Meanwhile in 1951, Harold was elected to Castle Hills' first City Council. Before his death, Elizabeth and Harold celebrated their 45th Anniversary.

Rebecca Villarreal (April 21) was born in Gonzales, TX and moved to San Antonio with her family in 1941. After WWII she met her husband, Josias, while he was a student at Texas A&M and they married in 1950. Aside from her dedication to family, she managed the finances and activities of the family real estate investments well into her 90s and was considered an astute and shrewd businesswoman. Active in her church, she particularly enjoyed her mission trips to orphanages in Mexico and celebrated 61 years of marriage before Josias passed. Her extended family resides in Castle Hills.

Mary Gerfers (April 27) was born in San Antonio and eloped to Seguin in 1939. Her husband Guy enlisted in the Army Air Force in 1942 which took them to Maryland and Kansas. After the war, when daughter Debbie was just one year old, they moved to Castle Hills in 1951, the year the city was incorporated, recalling that there were still cows in the yards, left behind from the Slimp Dairy Farm, and most of the streets were dirt and gravel. Mary did her best to provide an idyllic childhood for her Debbie and Gary as well as for many of the kids in the close-knit community. Still she found time for civic activities and with several other women started the Castle Hills Woman's Club and the Garden Club with many of the meetings taking place in the Gerfers' carport. Eventually Mary decided to return to work, starting with jobs in women's clothing stores till she landed a job as Rosemary Kowalski's secretary when Catering by Rosemary was just beginning, in the late 1960s. As the business took off, Mary was going out to events with her own crew which sometimes included her children. This led to rubbing elbows with celebrities like Charlton Heston, John Connally and President Lyndon Johnson. As exciting as the work was, Mary resigned after the birth of her first granddaughter, and she and Guy built a weekend home on Lake LBJ. She remained a popular and engaged citizen to the end, a legacy Debbie will be carrying on.

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25 years – Rick Harada – Public Works
 10 years – Juan DeLuna – Public Works
 5 years – Jake Vierra – Dispatch
 5 years – David Fawcett – Police Department
 5 years – Doug Phillips
 1 year – Carl Citarella – Fire Department
 1 year – Jonathan Perez – Fire Department



NEW EMPLOYEES:

Joseph Lopez – Fire Department
 Lance Buegeler – Fire Department
 Maria Smith - Dispatch

RETIREMENT:

Fire Captain David Duggan retired in August after dedicating 37 years to the citizens of Castle Hills. During his firefighting career Captain Duggan was one of the original members of Texas Task Force One. 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. We offer Captain Duggan a sincere thank you and wish you the best in your new pursuits.

Shweiki

Crossword Answer Key



Across:

4. Thanksgiving
6. Family
7. Tree
8. Stuffing
10. Presents
12. Lights
13. Cookies



Down

1. Christmas
2. Santa
3. Reindeer
4. Turkey
5. Sleigh
6. Friends
9. Football
10. Pumpkin
11. Stocking



Were you denied life insurance benefits because your insurance company claims your loved one lied on the policy application?

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3740 Colony Drive Suite LL100
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