

CASTLE HILLS REPORTER

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Issue 1



Message From the Mayor

Marcy Harper

Editors Note: Mayor Harper has deferred her message in order to provide important information to our residents regarding the revision of our Zoning Ordinance adopted in the Special City Council Meeting held on January 29, 2008.

The Zoning Review Committee began this task in 2003. Credit for the revisions include, Perry Burnham, former Chairman, Marc Schnall, Chairman, Brad Boeckner, Rosemary Lewis, Brother William Dooling, Fred Pillet, LaVerne Japhet, David Snowden, & Joan Buerschinger.

Rita Hoyl, Assistant City Manager, has summarized a few of the revisions. If you would like a copy of the entire Zoning Ordinance, please contact Rita.

If you have not attended our City Council meetings, I welcome you. The monthly council meetings are held on the 2nd Tuesday of each month at 6 p.m. at the City Municipal Building. If you have any questions, please telephone me at 524-9200 or email: mharper3@satx.rr.com



NEW ZONING ORDINANCE APPROVED

**Submitted by Rita Hoyl
Assistant City Manager/Code Compliance**

Recently, the city council adopted a new zoning ordinance that will have a positive impact on your community. However, some of you might see this as a negative because there will be stricter enforcement of violations that have been occurring for many, many years. We now have clearer language in which to use to enforce our ordinances. (Continued on page 2)



Visit our Re-built City Website!

The City website, which was significantly reworked over the last several months, went “live” on April 11th. We are very excited to be able to allow residents the opportunity to interact with the City from home and to have the information they need at their fingertips.

Go to www.cityofcastlehills.com

- Get information about the City Council and the various City departments.
- Review the Agendas and Minutes of City meetings.
- Read the City Newsletter.
- Request City services and report problems through the “Contact Us” page.
- Download and print out City permit application forms.
- Review employment opportunities and download the job application.
- Review the trash, recycling and brush pick-up schedules.
- Post a lost pet notice or see the dogs that we currently have at our facility.

We will make every effort to keep our website fresh and interesting. Come and check us out!

While this list is not all inclusive, I will be out in the field addressing and enforcing the storage of boats, recreational vehicles, and inoperable vehicles on the property. Side yard storage of boats and RV's is no longer allowed. Those that have their boats and RV's parked in the side yard must make arrangements to relocate them onto a surfaced area inside the "rear yard" setback of the property and must have a screening device around the perimeter of the rear yard.

Also, parking areas must meet the definition of "surfaced area." No longer will anyone be allowed to use a gravel surface for parking of any vehicles, boats, RV's etc.

Let's begin with some definitions that we can use to clarify some of the terms in the following sections.

Accessory Building or Use – An “accessory building or use” is one which: (a) is subordinate to and serves a principal building or principal use; and (b) is subordinate in area, extent, or purpose to the principal building or principal use served; and (c) contributes to the comfort, convenience and necessity of occupants of the principal building or principal use served; and (d) is located on the same building lot as the principal building or principal use served.

Fence – A manmade barrier or screening device constructed of the materials, singly or in combination, of the materials authorized in the Zoning Code. No fence shall exceed eight feet in height in residential or 10 feet in height in commercial.

Screening Device – A “screening device” shall consist of a solid barrier of stone, brick, rock, stucco, wood, or other permanent material of equal character, density, and design acceptable to the City Manager, at least six feet in height. Any gate shall also be solid. Such screening device shall be continuously maintained by the owner(s).

Structure – anything constructed, erected, located, and placed on the ground or attached to something constructed, erected, and placed on the ground.

Surface or Surfaced – means covered by only asphalt,

concrete, pavers or brick. “Pavers” are defined as sectional or separate pieces or units of brick, heavy tile or concrete, separately placed or embedded in the earth or on base materials and spaced so as to provide both adequate support for vehicles moving over or parked thereon, and optionally for the soaking-in of rain or sprinkled water and the cultivating and tending of grass or other suitable ground cover in the spaces between the pavers.

Yard - A “yard” is an open space on the same building lot with a building unoccupied and unobstructed by any portion of a structure from the ground upward, except as otherwise provided. In measuring a yard for the purpose of determining the width of a side yard, the depth of a rear yard, and the depth of a front yard, the minimum horizontal distance between the building site and the lot line shall be used. A “yard” extends along a line and at right angles to such lot line to a depth or width specified in the yard regulations of the zoning district in which such building lot is located.

Yard, Front - A “front yard” is a yard extending along the whole length of the front lot line between the side lot lines, and being the minimum horizontal distance between the front lot line and any building or any projections thereof other than steps, planter box, and unenclosed porches.

Yard, Rear - A “rear yard” is a yard extending across the rear of a lot between the side lot lines and being the minimum horizontal distance between the rear lot line and the rear of the principal building or any projections thereof other than steps, unenclosed balconies, planter boxes, or unenclosed porches.

Yard, Side - A “side yard” is a yard extending along the side lot line from the front yard to the rear yard, being the minimum horizontal distance between any building or projections thereof, except steps and unenclosed and uncovered porches and the side lot line except for corner lots where the side lot line paralleling a right-of-way will extend from the front yard line past the rear of the principal building to the rear property line.

BUILDINGS

Accessory Buildings, Structures, and Uses (ABSU)

– A maximum of two detached accessory buildings will be allowed on any lot. ABSU include, but are not limited to, an automobile storage garage, storage building, greenhouse and workshop. Except for an attached garage which can be in the side yard, an ABSU must be in the back yard and at least 75’ from the front property line. A *detached* ABSU must observe the side yard setbacks established for the main building in each district (10’ in “A” Single Family District) and not closer than 5’ to the rear yard property line. An *attached* ABSU must observe the same setbacks as the main building. The height of an ABSU shall not exceed the height of the main building or 25’, whichever is less. There must be a minimum spacing of 10’ between any detached ABSU and the main building and any other ABSU on the property. ABSU larger than 120 square feet must be constructed of not less than 75% masonry if the primary structure is masonry, or must match the main building if that building is not 75% masonry.

Height Regulations – A building in “A” Single Family Residential District may not have more than two stories or exceed 35’ in height.

Fences – Fences in the front yard may not be higher than 3’ and may only be constructed of wood, wrought iron, brick, stone, stucco or finished concrete. Side or rear yard fences may not be higher than 8’ and may only be constructed of galvanized chain link, wood, wrought iron, brick stone, stucco or finished concrete. Hardie board or Hardie panel are prohibited fence materials.

VEHICLES

Vehicle Parking: Residential and Non-Residential

– Must always be parked on a “**surfaced area.**” If parked in the driveway in front of the house, in a carport open on one or more sides, a vehicle must have legally affixed a current registration and license; must be street legal; must be able to operate under its own power; must be titled to an owner, resident, or guest; must have not more than two axles; must be a vehicle

designed and used for non-commercial purposes and for transporting nine or fewer passengers; must not be a bus, recreational vehicle, tractor, or truck (except for personal pickup trucks not designed or used for agricultural or commercial purposes).

Inoperable Vehicles – A permit must be obtained from the City Manager’s office to allow storage of up to three inoperable vehicles on any one property. A permit will be issued for a period up to 90 days only if the vehicle is undergoing repairs or restoration and if the vehicle is parked in a garage that remains closed to view from the street, alley, and neighboring properties. Or, the vehicles can be parked in the “**rear yard**” inside the setbacks of the principal building and on a “**surfaced area**” accessed by a driveway and inside a perimeter fence enclosing the entire rear yard and meeting the definition of a “**screening device,**” as long as no unhealthy, unsanitary, or hazardous conditions exists and none are created by the parking or storage of the inoperable vehicle.

The conditions above also apply to mobile homes, manufactured homes, trailers, semi-trailers, commercial or agricultural tractors, or any other towed or self-propelled vehicles.

BOATS, TRAILERS & RECREATIONAL VEHICLES

Boats, Trailers & Recreational Vehicles – May be parked in a garage that remains closed to view from the street, alley, and neighboring properties or it may be parked in the “**rear yard**” inside the setbacks for a principal building and on a “**surfaced area**” accessed by a driveway and inside a perimeter fence enclosing the entire rear yard and meeting the definition of a “**screening device,**” as long as no unhealthy, unsanitary, or hazardous conditions exist and none are created by the parking or storage of the boat, trailer, or recreational vehicle.

A permit may be issued for boats and RV’s for driveway parking for not more than three days in any 30-day period for the purpose of preparation for, and cleaning after, a recreational outing.

OUTSIDE STORAGE

Open Storage - Many homes have locations on the property that has been designated as a storage area. These places are usually in an area where the homeowner can't see the stuff that has accumulated over time. I've observed stuff stored for months on the side of the house, behind a storage building, corner of the property, etc. We are all guilty of storing items that we think we may need later or possibly it's put aside for a project we never get around to doing. These areas have been observed to contain things such as building materials, old buckets, cleaning supplies, old logs, broken furniture, and many more random objects. Now that "Spring Cleaning Season" is here, it is a good time to call our Public Works Director and ask for a quote/surcharge to get rid of all of the stuff. Not only are these areas an unsightly nuisance but these areas usually harbor rodents and vermin. Look around your property and have a plan of action to have all "**open storage**" eliminated or removed so that it is not visible from a public street or alley.

Take pride in your home, neighborhood and community. Maintain your lawns, cut grass growing over curbs and into the street, remove or screen unused articles, repair rain gutters, fences, repair window screens, pick up your trash receptacles after garbage pick up, don't park cars on the grass, etc.

Please do not hesitate to contact me with your concerns or questions.

Contact me by phone at 342-2341, ext 215 or e-mail at rhoyl@cityofcastlehills.com with any questions or concerns.

Lost and Found

At the February City Council meeting a pair of prescription eye glasses was left on one of the chairs in the audience. If you think they belong to you, come by the Administrative Office. We've been saving them for you!



**Memorial Day
May 26, 2008**



COUNCIL MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

January , 2008

Consider and act upon:

- Resolution commending Firefighter Stanley Slomchinski upon his retirement for 33 years of service with the City of Castle Hills – *passed unanimously.*
- Recommendations of the Architectural Review Committee for an application from Jose R. Ford, Villa Park Architect, to renovate the exterior of the existing office/retail building located at 1010 N.W. Loop 410 – *passed unanimously.*
- Approving a right-in right-out drive to Lot 7 on the Wedgwood Retail Subdivision located west of Blanco Road near the Wedgwood Apartments – *tabled until the February meeting.*
- Recommendation of the Zoning Commission on a request for a Special Use Permit specified in Section 31.1702(6) to allow more than five (5) non-related individuals to live together in a dwelling as an institution of religious nature at 143 Honeysuckle Lane in the "A" Single Family Dwelling District – *motion to deny the Special Use Permit passed three to two; Council members Huff and Howell voted against the motion.*

- Selecting a Financial Advisor and engaging services – *motion to engage the services of First Southwest Company for five years passed three to two; Council members Huff and Glass voted against the motion.*
- Joint Election Agreement with Bexar County for the May 10, 2008 Election – *tabled until the February meeting.*
- Resolution to approve entering into a Local Transportation Project Advance Funding Agreement with Texas Department of Transportation for the installation of school zone flashers as well as removing and replacing school zone signage and markers on West Avenue from Mimosa Avenue to FM 1535 (NW Military Hwy) – *passed unanimously.*
- Purchase of a Fire Truck – *passed four to one; Council member Gregory opposed.*
- Approving the City of Castle Hills Certified Tax Roll for the Year 2007 – *passed unanimously.*

February 8, 2008

Consider and act upon:

- Approving a right-in right-out drive to Lot 7 on the Wedgwood Retail Subdivision located west of Blanco Road near the Wedgwood Apartments – *tabled to a future date.*
- Joint Election Agreement with Bexar County for the May 10, 2008 General Election – *passed unanimously.*
- Ordinance calling an election be held on May 10, 2008 to elect three alderman and addressing matters related to the election – *passed unanimously.*
- Interlocal agreement for detention services with the City of San Antonio – *passed unanimously.*
- Appointing a City resident to the Castle Hills Crime Control & Prevention District to fill a vacancy for an unexpired term ending September 1, 2009 – *no action taken.*

- Purchasing Christmas decorations; 30% discount – *passed unanimously.*
- Casting a vote in support of Hank Brummett for a two-year term on the VIA Board of Trustees beginning January 1, 2008 and ending December 31, 2009 – *passed unanimously.*

March 11, 2008

Consider and act upon:

- Castle Hills Woman’s Club member gave a power point presentation indicating the desire to provide a Master Plan prepared by a professional landscape architect for the development of The Commons.
- Accepting the annual audit of city Financial Statements for the Fiscal Year ended December 31, 2007 – *passed unanimously.*
- Recommendations of the Zoning Commission on a request from Ronnie Gamboa and Robert Roberts, Jr. for a Special Use Permit to operate a sports bar at 6901 Blanco Rd., Blanco Junction Shopping Center – *passed unanimously.*
- Approval of Subdivision Plat of HPI Castle Hills Commercial Development, being an 11.865 acre tract of land out of the J.W. Smith Survey No. 6, Abstract 706, County Block 5006 – *passed four to 1; Councilman Howell opposed.*
- Appointing a City resident to the Castle Hills Crime Control & Prevention District to fill a vacancy for an unexpired term ending September 1, 2009; Frank Paul nominated – *passed unanimously.*





COUNCIL COMMENTS



Marcella Huff
Place 1

Over the past few months attendance at council meetings has been higher than usual. It is probably because some of the issues that have been on the agenda have been of particular importance to the attendees. This is understandable. Time is valuable and we have to pick and choose how we will spend our time.

It is easy to ascertain what items will be on the council agenda for any given month. Postcards are sent out in advance of each council meeting. The agenda is also posted at city hall. In addition, once our new and improved website is up and running, the monthly agenda will be available on-line.

I encourage all residents to check to see if there are any items on the agenda that are of particular importance to you. If so, please attend that meeting. Your comments, suggestions, and criticisms are important. Please express them at council meetings.

Also, keep in mind that at the beginning of the agenda at each council meeting is Citizens to be Heard. This is an opportunity for residents to express themselves on items of concern that are not on that month's agenda. Keep in mind that council members and the mayor are not permitted by law to comment on what is said during this section of the agenda. This allows residents to express themselves freely. Questions that may arise during this time can always be addressed to our city manager or city attorney

after the meeting has concluded or during the break, if any.

As always, I can be reached at 349-6857. I look forward to seeing you at the next council meeting.



Douglas Gregory
Place 2
Mayor Pro Tem
City Treasurer

Since the beginning of the year, two important areas of interest to all Castle Hills citizens have been discussed, reviewed and finalized; 1) revision/ updating of our zoning codes, and, 2) the fiscal health of the City.

For the last two years, there has been an ongoing review of our zoning codes. That report was submitted to Council and with modest adjustments, was approved. Having a strong and clear code which reflects the needs and concerns of our City is very important. We all know what cities can look like if zoning codes are vague or even non-existent...see Houston! Our codes were established and refined to emphasize the strong desires of our citizens to protect residential neighborhoods and encourage business growth. As has been the case for years, if there are any zoning questions simply call our City Manager and he or his staff will be glad to help you.

Recently, Castle Hills has engaged the services of First Southwest Corporation to be our financial advisor. As our budget grows (currently around \$5 million) professional, long-term advice, such as this, is needed in order to ensure that this and future Councils can responsibly determine how long-term planning can be managed.

In the future, new council members can be quickly and thoroughly brought up to speed by our financial advisor on the economic health and welfare of the City. Current members can apply this advice when large complicated questions are addressed. For example advice on how a city can successfully manage debt from bond issuance or how to best

finance other significant economic expenditures. Fiscal common sense combined with carefully crafted municipal codes reflects the concerns of our citizens and will continue to be my top priority. For it is these two principles which have determined our past and must chart our future.

Please call if you have any questions or concerns at 378-4481.



Tim Howell
Place 3

I would ask that you help us with your ideas, thoughts and comments, and please, as always, support our local businesses. Feel free to contact me at any time with your thoughts or comments. I can be reached at 979-0839.



Helen Glass
Place 4

Dear Citizens of Castle Hills,

Our City is a unique and beautiful place for all of us to enjoy. Driving down our streets and seeing our homes on well kept lawns is wonderful.

The children have grand neighborhoods to play with neighbor's children and other friends from schools and churches. We are blessed.

Our City is a well run city with both Police and Fire Departments. Our Public Works does keep our City clean. I have had several calls from citizens having to pay \$25 for extra bags of yard clippings. Our Council should look into this and find a way for all of us to keep our homes beautiful and not costly.

"Happy Spring" to all of you.

Please call me if I can be of any help. My number is 344-7314.

Helen Glass



Tom Davis
Place 5

One of the recommendations from the Texas A & M University study of our city was to begin to distinguish Castle Hills from San Antonio. In other words, we should make it more obvious to people driving into Castle Hills that they were now in a different and unique city. At the November City Council Meeting, the Council approved a monument design to be placed at major entrances to Castle Hills. The first of these signs by noted local artist James Hendricks has been completed at the intersection of Cas-Hills and Blanco Road. The finished lighted sign contains a three dimensional iron work design of a tree and the wording City of Castle Hills. This beautiful piece of iron art work that is on our sign was selected to be displayed at San Antonio's Luminaria Art celebration held on March 15, 2008. Hundreds of people saw the City of Castle Hills sign at this exhibit. Shortly after the exhibition, the iron work was installed. Be sure to drive by and see the completed sign.

The second project undertaken to visually distinguish Castle Hills was the approval by the City Council of decorative street lighting. This project is funded by the CPS Energy Board, Community Infrastructure Economic Development (CIED) Fund. No City tax money will be spent for this ongoing project. The first phase of this project will be to add decorative street lighting along NW Military from 410 to the City limits near Lockhill Selma. These new lights are beautiful, old fashion light standards with acorn shaped lighting globes that will augment existing illumination. Also included in this first phase will be new lighting along Lemonwood in front of

Hall, the Commons, and the Fire Station. Decorative lights will be placed at the intersection of Cas-Hills and Blanco Road and the intersection of Travertine and Jackson-Keller. At no cost to our City, the CIED Funds will be available each year to continue with extending this distinctive lighting project throughout the City.

The Texas A & M University study indicated that such actions to “brand” Castle Hills were key components for the economic growth and development of our City. The City Council is continuing to investigate other ways to enhance the economic development and quality of life in our beautiful and unique City.

FIRE DEPARTMENT
Gerald Riedel, Fire Chief



Hello from the Castle Hills Fire Department. It is our hope that you will never need to utilize emergency services. But the reality is that at some point we all need to call upon Police, Fire or EMS for help. In order to provide those services, we need to be able to find your home. It is essential that your address be posted on your home and/or mailbox. City ordinance requires that address numbers be a minimum of 3” in height, preferably reflective so that they may be seen easily at night.

As mentioned in the last newsletter a major safety concern is low hanging tree limbs over our city streets. We have sent initial letters to homeowners on the north side of Loop 410 and will be doing a follow up for compliance within the next several weeks. *Castle Hills City Code reads as follows:*

§13.503.3 REGULATIONS

(c) It shall be unlawful for any tree, shrub, vine, hedge, palm, or vegetation of any kind to be located, grown, planted, maintained or cultivated in such a manner that any portion of such tree, shrub, vine,

palm, or vegetation may overhang or obtrude upon or over any sidewalk, curb, roadway, or pavement within the city or state right-of-way, unless there is a full twelve-foot (12’) vertical clearance between the surface of all portions of such sidewalk, curb, roadway, or pavement within the city or state right-of-way and the portion of the tree, shrub, vine, palm or vegetation. The twelve-foot (12’) clearance must be maintained under all weather conditions and circumstances.

Those of you who live on the south side of 410 may want to start taking a look at your limbs, as you will be next. We certainly do not want to create a hardship for anyone; however, the low hanging limbs and branches do cause damage to our emergency vehicles as well as the sanitation trucks. Thanks to all of you that have already taken care of the limbs at your residences.

Have a great Spring.

POLICE DEPARTMENT
Donald Davis, Police Chief



In just a few short months school will be out for the summer again. This means that our children will be out and about at various times of the day enjoying their time off. This is just a friendly reminder to watch out for them and the walkers on the streets.

I have been receiving reports from our night shift officers of sporadic coyote sightings on the north side of the loop. As a suggestion, feed your pets, then pick up any remaining food, do not leave pet food out, and secure your trash cans. You may also want to consider bringing in smaller pets at night as the coyote is not above trying to make a meal out of them. If there’s nothing for them to eat these animals will move on.

The police department is doing well, and continues moving forward in our goal of making Castle Hills a safe environment in which to live and raise families. We also ask that should you see anything suspicious, do not hesitate to call and report it. During summer months families will be out on vacation and homes are unoccupied. Be a good neighbor and keep an eye out for any unusual activities and **CALL!**

We have recently received calls for theft out of mail boxes. The department strongly encourages all residents not to send mail out via your mailbox. Take your mail to the post office or use one of the main mailboxes to deposit your outgoing mail.

Remember that the Police Department provides free home surveys, that once completed will qualify you for a reduction in your homeowner's insurance rates. To schedule a survey, please call the office and ask for Sgt. Mark Pardaen.

If the Police Department can be of service to you, please do not hesitate to call. Until next time, take care of each other and be safe.

PUBLIC WORKS

Rick Harada,
Public Works Director



You may not consider items that have been stored in your garage or storage shed as hazardous materials. If you have old paint, pool chemicals, weed killer, bug sprays, etc., do not place these items in the trash for collection. Any mixture of these materials will cause a chemical reaction that can be hazardous or even fatal to those that come in contact with the mixture. If you have any types of these materials, you can drop them off at our Public Works Department Monday through Friday, between 7 a.m. and 3 p.m. Do not drop off after hours or on holidays, as no one is available to store the waste in secure area for proper disposal.

I can be reached at 342-2341, ext. 206.

BRUSH REGULATIONS

Tree limbs cannot exceed three inches in diameter and five feet in length and should be stacked neatly on the ground if not in bags. Brush and/or leaf bags should be placed in the same location that your garbage is collected, i.e., alley or curbside only. Collectors will not service more than the equivalent of three 30-gallon garbage cans on any one call, so please do not set out more than the limited amount, as you do not want to receive a violation notice for using your curb or alley for brush storage. Brush collection is provided once a week for the entire City (except during a holiday week when there is no pick up).

If you do not want to store the excess brush or bags inside your property, call Rick Harada, Public Works at 342-2341, ext. 206, and he can offer a quote/surcharge to have the brush removed from your property, usually within 24 hours. Depending on the amount you have, the fee/surcharge usually begins at about \$25 for a pick-up load. If you have to dispose of the brush at the landfill personally you will be charged \$20 for a pick up load.

Some residents have stated that the \$19 monthly garbage fee should be paying for this service. That monthly fee pays for the service of two garbage collections, one recycle collection, and one brush collection (4 collections) per week. That's 16 trips (\$1.19 per trip) to each house per month!

In the first quarter of 2005 the landfill fee averaged \$16.58 per ton. Due to costs continuing to rise, the landfill fees averaged \$24.14 per ton during the first quarter of 2008. This is \$7.56 per ton more than what the City was paying in 2005, or a 45% increase. During that time the City collection fee has not increased.

If you are paying a lawn service to maintain your property, have the service remove the bags or brush from the property. This eliminates the headache of storing bags on your property or receiving a code compliance notice for exceeding the weekly collection allotment.

CITY HOLIDAYS

May 26 - Memorial Day

July 4 - Independence Day

September 1 - Labor Day

November 11 - Veteran's Day

November 27 & 28 - Thanksgiving Holiday

December 25 - Christmas Day

CODE COMPLIANCE

Rita Hoyl

REPORTING VIOLATIONS

Many of you know that I wear a few hats here at the office. I feel one of the more important ones is Code Enforcement. Because I am not in the field eight hours a day, it is difficult to observe everything that takes place in the community, so your phone calls and those extra sets of eyes really do help.

So, you ask, "*why does it take so long for anything to get done after reporting a violation?*"

What happens when a violation is observed or reported? How is it enforced? How is it addressed?

- Either I drive the streets and detect the violation or receive a phone call about a possible violation or just a concern.
- If the violation is reported, I leave the office at my earliest convenience and drive to the reported address to examine the violation.
- I return to the office to process the violation notice. The notice will describe the violation and will typically allow five to ten business days to correct such violation.
- The notice is mailed to the property.
- Resident or business receives the notice by mail, and (1) corrects the violation, or; (2) calls the office (sometimes on the last day to correct) to request more time to rectify the violation because they were out of town, on vacation, working long hours, illness, etc. *I will allow a reasonable extension*; (3) the notice is ignored.

- The day after the deadline date, I return to the property where the violation was detected and examine whether or not the violation has been corrected.
- If not corrected, I forward notice of complaint to Municipal Court.
- Municipal Court drafts the complaint for the violation.
- Violator is summoned to court and assigned an appearance date. Typically a court date is assigned for an appearance within 10-20 business days.
- The violator appears in court and the case can be disposed by (1) finding the defendant guilty and assessed a fine; (2) plea bargain subject to approval by judge; (3) allow more time to correct problem; (4) dismiss the case. Fines can be up \$2000.

From the day that the initial notice is mailed to the day that the violator is scheduled for a court appearance for non-compliance of a city ordinance ranges from 20-30 business days.

Take pride in your home, neighborhood and community. Thank you for your help in maintaining a healthy living environment and keeping strong property values in our neighborhoods.

Please do not hesitate to contact me with your concerns or questions.

Contact me by phone at 342-2341, ext 215 or e-mail at rhoyl@cityofcastlehills.com with any questions or concerns.

SWIMMING POOL FACTS



Swimming Pools Take a Lot of Hard Work!

Swimming pools are more than just concrete boxes full of water. Keeping pool water clear, blue and sparkling doesn't just happen – it takes hard



Registration Required

Are your pets current on their vaccinations? All domestic pets in Castle Hills must be registered with the City. Registration is only \$10. Please bring proof of current rabies vaccination for each pet.

Leash Law

Please be reminded that a dog must be under proper restraint at all times if not on the owner’s premises.

Although cats shall be exempt from the leash requirement while on the premises of the owner, any cat straying on the property of anyone except its owner shall be deemed a nuisance animal and will be subject to impoundment.

Pooper Scooper Law

Be a responsible pet owner. When walking your dog, carry the appropriate materials to pick up and remove waste immediately.

Castle Hills Cats



Over the past few months, flyers have been distributed to Castle Hills residences offering free spay/neuter services for cats. This nonprofit organization has captured numerous feral cats in Castle Hills and had them spayed or neutered in order to prevent uncontrolled breeding. If you are having a problem with feral cats, you can call for help 366-4345. This program was funded by a grant from the Aid to Helpless Animals Trust of the San Antonio Area Foundation.

work, and a lot of it. Just ask any swimming pool owner.

A home swimming pool is great fun for the family, relatives, friends and guests. But when maintenance is neglected and a pool turns into a green mosquito infested eyesore, it can be a problem and a nuisance for the entire community.

The exact number of residential swimming pools in Castle Hills is not known. A quick look at aerial maps of residential areas showed that as many as 10 to 15 pools could be counted in some blocks. The good news is that the vast majority of pool owners maintain their pools in that clear and sparkling condition. The bad news is that a few pool owners allow their pool to become a backyard nuisance.

A pool doesn’t need to be breeding mosquitoes to be a nuisance. Green pools and even those that are well maintained may be an “attractive nuisance” and hazard for younger children and uninvited guests.

When reports are received about a pool not being maintained, the property owner will receive a letter reminding them about the need to maintain their pool. When this doesn’t work, other administrative and code enforcement measures may need to be taken.

All pool owners are reminded about the hazards of swimming pool chemicals. Chlorine in any form can be a hazard. When “empty” containers of chlorine tablets and swimming pool acids are simply thrown away in the trash, a hazardous material emergency may occur. Be sure to follow all label directions when using and disposing of swimming pool chemicals. Using a commercial pool maintenance firm can help eliminate some of the chemical hazards and help to ensure the water is always clear and sparkling.

**Submitted by
Homer C. Emery, Ph.D., R. S.**

RABIES DRIVE

On Saturday, March 8, 2008 the City of Castle Hills Public Works Department hosted a Rabies drive. A licensed veterinarian and his staff were on hand to administer the rabies vaccine at a cost of only \$8.00 for pets belonging to residents of Castle Hills. Other services were offered at a reduced cost. Turn-out was not what we expected, so we plan to offer this service once again in the fall. Our new website and the next issue of the Castle Hills Reporter will announce the next drive!

FOOD NEWS



Different types of food service operations permitted by the City present different types of food safety problems and potential risk. The frequency of inspection for a food service operation is based on a potential risk category of 1-3 based on the type of foods prepared and served.

A facility selling only package food has a very low risk and is assigned a risk code of 1. A fast-food operation with a limited menu is assigned a risk code of 2. Full service restaurants and buffet operations are assigned a risk code of 3. The risk code is also used to determine the amount of food safety consultation and training support that is needed.

The potential health risk of consuming certain types of foods requires that consumers be provided a written warning. For example, customers ordering raw oysters on the half-shell must be provided the following advisory:

“WARNING: This product may contain harmful bacteria that can cause serious illness in children, the elderly, and persons with weakened immune systems.” At one time, California Public Health Officials even banned restaurants from serving raw oysters from the Gulf of Mexico!

The best advice for consumers is to ask Restaurant Managers to see a copy of their latest inspection report. Managers are required to have a copy of this report for viewing by the public.

Your Community

CITIZENS TO BEAUTIFY CASTLE HILLS SPRING GARAGE SALE

The City of Castle Hills is hosting a community-wide garage sale in Spring 2008. The project is independent of any Castle Hills club or organization and all profits go to the city for general beautification of the city. All residents are included in this endeavor and invited to participate and/or donate their time/goods, or services.

Covenant Presbyterian Church at 211 Roletto Drive has generously agreed to allow the city use their multi-purpose building at the rear of their church. There is easy entrance to both parking lots using Loop 410 via the access road or from NW Military to Roletto. Dates of the sale are May 2nd and 3rd 2008.

Donations are actively sought (household furniture, small appliances and electronics, dishes and glassware, knick-knacks, costume jewelry, books, toys, crafts, garden equipment and supplies, in-style clothing in good condition and other sellable articles). Volunteers are available to pick up donations and all donations are tax deductible. The U-Haul Storage facility at 1951 Loop 410 has donated a storage container for our use.

Contact Pam Grunwald at 341-6655 or 669-4845 to donate goods, volunteer your services or if you have questions, comments or suggestions.

Please join your friends and neighbors in making this a successful community fund raiser. Let's support our city and have some fun at the same time.



The Castle Hills Woman's Club invited the residents of Castle Hills to join them for a beautiful presentation on the Mitchell Lake Audubon Center. Ms. Susan Albert, Center Director made the presentation April 7, 2008 to about 20 residents in the Castle Hills Community Room. Light refreshments were served.

Did you know

.....Mitchell Lake was once a 'smelly' water treatment plant?

.....over 2500 white pelicans spend their winters at Mitchell Lake?

.....every year thousands of school children take part in nature education activities sponsored by Mitchell Lake Audubon Center?

For more information visit the website at www.mitchelllakeaudubon.org.



SAVE
THE
DATE!

Castle Hills Community Garage Sale
Covenant Presbyterian Church
211 Roletto
May 2nd & 3rd 2008
8:00 am to 5:00 pm

We are still in need of items for our Garage Sale. If you have any items you wish to donate or would be interested in volunteering call Pam Grunwald 341-6655 or Vera Howard 366-2677. All profits go to the beautification of our City and all donations are tax deductible.

Thank you for your support.

Pam Grunwald & Vera Howard

JOINT GENERAL, SPECIAL AND BOND ELECTION

The City of Castle Hills is holding a joint election with Bexar County on Saturday, May 10, 2008 to elect City Council members in Places 1, 4, and 5.

The ballot will include the NEISD General Election and Bexar County, Texas Venue Project Election, Propositions No. 1- 4.



Monday, April 28 thru Friday, May 2, 2008

8:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.

&

Saturday, May 3, 2008

10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.

Sunday, May 4, 2008

12:00 pm – 6:00 p.m.

Monday, May 5 thru Tuesday, May 6, 2008

8:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.

at

Castle Hills City Hall,
209 Lemonwood Drive

Applications for ballot by mail should be sent to:

Jacquelyn F. Callenan
Elections Administrator
203 W. Nueva, Suite 3.61
San Antonio, TX 78207

Applications for ballot by mail must be received no later than the close of business on May 2, 2008.

ELECTION DAY
MAY 10, 2008
CASTLE HILLS CITY HALL
209 Lemonwood Drive
7 AM – 7 PM

Employee Highlights

Anniversaries

5 Years - Christopher S. Sill, Police Officer
10 Years - Cpl. Wayne A. Davis, Detective
20 Years - Steven P. Hart, Police Sergeant
 & Richard H. Araiza - Sanitation Driver

New Employees

THOMAS O. SMITH - Firefighter

RYAN PRATHER - Firefighter

MARCIAL RIVERA - Police & Fire Dispatcher

Retirements

STANLEY SLOMCHINSKI - At the January 8th City Council Meeting, Mayor Harper acknowledged the retirement of Firefighter Stanley Slomchinski. Stanley began his fire fighting career 33 years ago with the Castle Hills Fire Department on January 1, 1975. Thank you Stan for 33 years of loyal employment.

GABRIEL MORALES - Last month Council recognized Police Lieutenant Gabriel Morales. Lt. Morales retires with 28-1/2 years of service. Morales began his career with the Castle Hills Police Department August 15, 1979.



Mayor Harper presented Lt. Morales a plaque and a watch at the April City Council Meeting.

HOLIDAY GARBAGE COLLECTION SCHEDULE PLEASE CLIP & SAVE!

MAY 2008

Monday, May 26	MEMORIAL DAY HOLIDAY
Tuesday, May 27	South of the Loop
Wednesday, May 28	North of the Loop Garbage & Recycle
Thursday, May 29	South of the Loop Garbage & Recycle
Friday, May 30	North of the Loop Garbage & Recycle

No brush collection this week

JUNE/JULY 2008

Monday, June 30	South of the Loop
Tuesday, July 1	North of the Loop
Wednesday, July 2	South of the Loop Garbage & Recycle
Thursday, July 3	North of the Loop Garbage & Recycle
Friday, July 4	INDEPENDENCE DAY HOLIDAY

No brush collection this week

SEPTEMBER 2008

Monday, September 1	LABOR DAY HOLIDAY
Tuesday, September 2	South of the Loop
Wednesday, September 3	North of the Loop Garbage & Recycle
Thursday, September 4	South of the Loop Garbage & Recycle
Friday, September 4	North of the Loop

No brush collection this week



**New Businesses
“Shop Castle Hills”**

Bike City – 7115 Blanco Road, #112 (*Bikes, bike parts, accessories*)

CTP – 1919 NW Loop 410, Suite 200 (*Travel planners*)

Elegant Look – 800 Lockhill Selma (*Beauty Salon & Beauty Products*)

Friends for Life – 8000 West Ave., #1 (*Not for Profit Guardianships*)

Kobe Japanese Steak House – 1007 NW Loop 410 (*Restaurant*)

New York Exchange – 2241 NW Military Highway, #104 (*Consignment Upscale Resale Shop*)

Salon De Frisk – 7115 Blanco Rd., #115 (*Salon*)

Servicios Especiales Profesionales USA, Inc – 6423 Blanco Road (*Repatriation of titular’s corpse admin office*)

Star of India – 2267 NW Military Hwy, #116 (*Restaurant*)

The Pavilions Salon – 1931 NW Military Hwy, #126 (*Beauty Salon & Products*)

**New Businesses
“Coming Soon”
To Castle Hills!**

Batteries Plus – 2277 NW Military Highway, #111 (*Retail Batteries; auto, computer, cell, watch cordless phone, camera, etc*)

Eyes of San Antonio – 1009 NW Loop 410 (*Practice of Optometry; Professional Services, Contact Lenses, Optical*)

Hogan Real Estate Services – 1618 Lockhill Selma (*Real Estate Property Development & Management*)

Serp Inc – 1100 NW Loop 410, #201 (*Insurance Brokerage*)

The Cruise Center – 1015 NW Loop 410 (*Travel Agency*)

**In memory of
Helen Schneider Ursell**

Long time Castle Hills resident Helen Schneider Ursell passed away in December 2007. Because of her love of animals, it was requested that in lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the Castle Hills Animal Shelter in Helen’s honor.

On behalf of the City of Castle Hills many thanks to all of you for your generosity!

- Betty Hicks*
- William F. Reichert, Jr.*
- Mr. & Mrs. Leo Joeris*
- Clayton R. Franz*
- Mary E. Rodgers*
- Mary Duane & Gene Dawson*
- Helen B. Kyse*
- Patricia A. Schneider*
- Mr. & Mrs. James V. French*
- Mr. & Mrs. Dale Rollins*
- Donna M. Linn*
- Marcy Harper*

**New Monument Sign
Cas Hills and Blanco**



Landscape Design by Pam Grunwald



Help us keep the City's mailing list updated. If your name is not on the mailing label of this publication, please call Rita Hoyl, at City Hall, 342-2341 with current information.

CITY OF CASTLE HILLS

<p style="text-align: center;">CITY COUNCIL</p> <p>Mayor:.....Marcy Harper Place1:.....Marcella Huff Place 2:.....Douglas Gregory <i>Mayor Pro Tem</i> <i>Treasurer</i> Place 3:..... Tim Howell Place 4:.....Helen Glass Place 5:.....Tom Davis</p> <p style="text-align: center;">CASTLE HILLS CITY NEWSLETTER</p> <hr style="width: 20%; margin: auto;"/> <p><i>The Castle Hills Reporter</i> is published by the City of Castle Hills. For questions or comments regarding the information contained herein, contact:</p> <p>City of Castle Hills 209 Lemonwood Drive Castle Hills, TX 78213 (210) 342-2341 e-mail: rhoyl@cityofcastlehills.com</p> <p>Visit us at www.cityofcastlehills.com</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">CITY STAFF 342-2341</p> <p style="text-align: center;">CITY MANAGER Michael R. Rietz, Ext. 214</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Assistant City Manager Rita Hoyl, Ext. 215</p> <p style="text-align: center;">City Secretary Linda Gill, Ext. 216</p> <p style="text-align: center;">FIRE DEPARTMENT Chief Jerry Riedel, Ext. 217</p> <p style="text-align: center;">POLICE DEPARTMENT Chief Donald Davis, Ext. 210</p> <p style="text-align: center;">PUBLIC WORKS/ANIMAL CONTROL DEPARTMENT Director Rick Harada, Ext. 206</p> <p style="text-align: center;">CODE COMPLIANCE/PERMITS Rita Hoyl, Ext. 215</p> <p style="text-align: center;">ALL EMERGENCIES EMT, FIRE & POLICE CALL 911 24 Hours A Day</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">MONTHLY MEETINGS</p> <p>All meetings are held at City Hall unless otherwise posted</p> <p style="text-align: center;">City Council 2nd Tuesday – 6:00 p.m.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Architectural Review Committee 3rd Monday – 7:00 p.m. <i>Upon request</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;">Board of Adjustment 3rd Wednesday – 7:00 p.m. <i>Upon request</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;">Zoning Commission 1st Tuesday – 7:00 p.m. <i>Upon request</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;">Crime Control & Prevention District 3rd Monday – 6:30 p.m.</p>
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