

CASTLE HILLS REPORTER

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Message From the Mayor

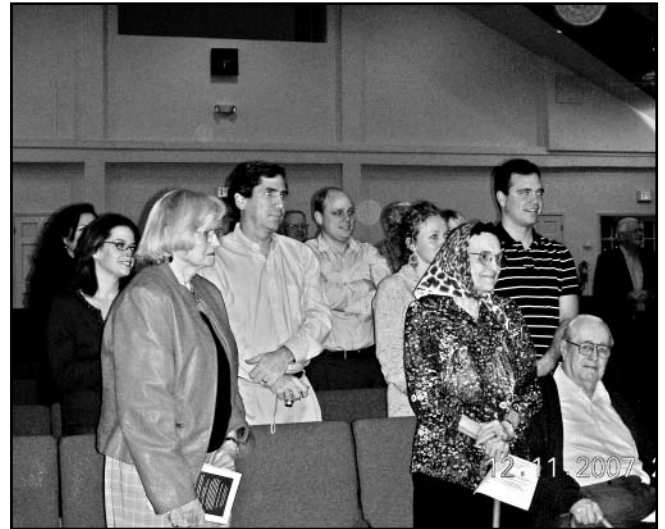
Marcy Harper

As we look forward to yet another wonderful year as a Castle Hills resident, I would like to summarize specific agenda items that our City Council approved in 2007 and those for consideration in the first part of 2008.

- Revision of our zoning ordinance created by the Zoning Review Committee and recommended by the Zoning Commission for council consideration expected in January 2008.
- Acquisition of our sewer system by San Antonio Water System (SAWS), expected to close in December, 2007. In conjunction with purchase, a franchise agreement will be entered into authorizing SAWS to collect the sewer charges in exchange for a 2% franchise fee. SAWS will be responsible for the maintenance and upgrading the system.
- City Public Service providing decorative acorn style light poles through the city's approximately \$700,000 CIED (Community Infrastructure Economic Development) Fund. Initially, the light poles will be placed on N.W. Military Hwy. from Gardenview, north to Lockhill Selma, staggered 150' on both sides of the highway. They will also be installed in front of City's Municipal Buildings, at the intersections of Cas Hills and Blanco and at the intersection of Travertine and Jackson Keller. In the near future, council will consider West Avenue and the residential areas.
- International Bank of Commerce was selected as the municipal depository for the next two years (they have served our city over the last 12 years).
- Ordinance levying 2008 fiscal year ad valorem tax for the city at a rate of 0.425801.
- Engaged our city manager, Michael Rietz who has been with us since July 2007.
- A stucco and brick monument sign will be built at the intersection of Cas Hills and Blanco which will display an artist rendered iron tree which will be illuminated. The sign was designed, at no charge, by MDN Architects.
- Contract renewal with Heard and Smith LLP for collection of delinquent taxes.
- Stately plaque to recognize current and former members of city council will be displayed on the wall of council chambers.
- Re-appointment, Douglas Gregory, as City Treasurer.
- Appointment, Douglas Gregory, as Mayor Pro Tempore.
- Appointment, Tom Davis, to fill the vacancy of Alderman Place 5 (formerly Robert J. Ford who resigned due to time constraints).
- Re-appointment of municipal court judge, Ramiro Estrada and alternate judge, Brother William Dooling.

- Re-appointment of municipal court prosecutor, Bernie Martinez and alternate prosecutor, Susan Kilgore.
- Re-appointment of public health officer, Dr. George Aitee, MD.
- Ordinance approved for the compromise and settlement of the pending litigation Castle Hills First Baptist Church v. City of Castle Hills, pending the U.S. District Court approval.
- Appointments to Architectural Review Committee for a two-year term; Steven Ackely (Chairman), Claudia Bankler, Joan Buerschinger, Sarah Burke, Walter vonNimitz and alternate members, Ben Vaughan and David Kellogg.
- Re-appointment to the Board of Adjustment for a two-year term; Bill Schluter (Chairman), Eunice Vandenbos, Bob Jones, Brother William Dooling, Ted Popp and alternates members, Kathryn Safford, Terry Warth and Rosemary Lewis (new appointment).
- Re-appointments to the Zoning Commission for a two-year term; Marc Schnall (Chairman), Walter Beuhler, LaVerne Japhet, Doug Lewis, Tim Turner and alternate members Douglas Steadman and Brad Boeckner (new appointment).
- Appointments to the Crime Control and Prevention District: Re-appointed Ted Popp and appointed new members Jack Joyce & Betty Chandler.
- First commercial Christmas decoration for our city, a 27' brilliant lighted Christmas tree displayed in The Commons (next to city hall). Plans to expand our city's decorations is in the 2008 budget.

As you can see, your council is working for you, our residents. May everyone have a blessed Christmas and a safe and prosperous New Year. I welcome your questions. Please contact me at 524-9200.



Mayor Harper presents LaVerne Japhet, Castle Hills resident for 44 years, the “2007 Citizen of the Year” award at the December 11th City Council meeting. Mrs. Japhet is an active member in the Woman’s Club, Homeowner’s Association, and Garden Club and has held many positions and worked on many committees. She has served on the Castle Hills Zoning Commission for 14 years. She was appointed to the Zoning Review Committee and was valuable in helping re-create the proposed zoning ordinance. Mrs. Japhet has three children, six grandchildren and two great-grandchildren. LaVerne is and will continue to be an asset to our City!



**Michael Rietz
City Manager**

It's hard to believe that it has only been five months since I started work with the City of Castle Hills. I am really starting to feel settled in. The staff and the

Council have been good to work with and I'm slowly but surely getting to know folks in the community. One of the hardest parts of this job is remembering the names of all the people you meet at the start of a new job, so thanks for your patience.

One of the first things I had to dive into was the 2008 budget. We have once again kept the amount of property tax revenue the same as the year before, resulting in a decrease in the tax rate to 42.5 cents per \$100 of valuation. Since 2005 the tax rate has declined nearly 8 cents.

In the coming year we will be taking a look at how to go about implementing the street improvement plan that the city engineer put together earlier this year. Every street in the community was evaluated by the engineer and the type of repair needed for each section of street was applied to a map. The main three types of repair are: crack and slurry seal, mill and overlay and street reconstruction. With the exception of the section of Lemonwood that was completed earlier this year, every street in the city needs some type of work. We will be holding two or three Town Hall meetings to inform and get input from the public in the Spring of 2008, so watch for the postcards for those meetings.



COUNCIL MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

July 10, 2007

Consider and act upon:

- Recommendations of the Zoning Commission on the proposed changes to the Zoning Ordinance Sections 31.1000-31.2400 – no action.
- Appointments to the Board of Adjustment – Rosemary Lewis appointed as alternate – passed unanimously.
- Ordinance amending Castle Hills Code of Ordinances, Section 13.501.7 expanding use of fees collected from the issuance of tree trimming permits – agenda item died for lack of motion.
- Authorizing expenditures up to \$1,000 per residential lot from the Oak Wilt Fund to purchase replacement tree(s) for the residential lots at 216, 217, and 218 Prinz Drive affected by the oak wilt disease – no action taken.
- Determining whether mosquito control will be provided by the City of Castle Hills – passed unanimously.
- Amending the FY 2007 Budget for the purchase of a projector, laptop computer, and a pull-down screen for the council chambers – passed unanimously.
- Setting a time, date, and place for a special meeting to discuss the Castle Hills FY 2007 and FY 2008 General and Special Funds budgets – July 25th set, passed with three (3) votes, Council member Glass abstained.

August 14, 2007

Consider and act upon:

- A resolution commending Firefighter Frederick W. Evans upon his retirement for 33 years of service to the City of Castle Hills – passed unanimously.

- Resolution waiving the rights in a triangular piece of land at the southeast corner of South Manton lane and Northwest Military Highway – tabled.
- Appointment to the Board of Adjustment – postponed.
- Proposed FY 2008 City Budget – no action.
- Scheduling a Public Hearing for the FY 2008 City Budget and Tax Levy – motion by Councilman Gregory to set the tax rate at the effective rate of .425801 – passed unanimously.
- Mayor to order the draft proposal of the FY 2008 City budget to be filed with the City Secretary and available for taxpayer inspection until the next regular City Council meeting to be held September 11, 2007

August 23, 2007

Consider and act upon:

- An ordinance approving a proposed consent decree to be entered in Cause No. SA 01 CV 1149-WRF, Castle Hills First Baptist Church v. City of Castle Hills, pending the United States District Court, which consent decree would approve and implement a compromise and settlement of the pending litigation and authorize the issuance of permits – passed 3 to 0; Council member Glass abstained.

September 11, 2007

Consider and act upon:

- Recommendations of the Zoning Commission for a Special Permit to conduct and operate a church from the existing building located at 2141 NW Loop 410, Zoned “H” Special Business District and to share parking with the adjacent property at 2013 NW Loop 410 – motion from Council member Huff to reschedule the item for October 9th.
- Annual health benefits plan for city employees – passed unanimously.
- Acknowledging the proposed budget will raise more total property taxes than last year’s budget by \$19,225 or 1%, and of that amount \$19,225 is tax revenue to be raised from new property added to the tax roll this year – passed unanimously.
- Ordinance adopting the 2008 Fiscal Year annual budget for the City of Castle Hills – passed unanimously.

- Ordinance levying ad valorem taxes for use and support of the municipal government for the City of Castle Hills, Texas for the 2008 fiscal year; providing for apportioning each levy for specific purposes; and providing when same taxes shall become due and when same shall become delinquent if not paid – passed unanimously.
- 2008 fiscal year annual budget adopted by the Board of Directors for the City of Castle Hills Crime Control and Prevention District – passed unanimously.
- Appointments of members to the Castle Hills Crime Control and Prevention District – Jack Joyce, new member appointed; Ted Popp and David Snowden, re-appointed – passed unanimously.
- Appointing an individual to fill the vacancy of Alderman Place 5 – Thomas Davis appointed – passed unanimously.

October 9, 2007

Consider and act upon:

- Recommendations of the Zoning Commission for a Special Use permit to conduct and operate a church from the existing building located at 2141 NW Loop 410, zoned “H” Special Business District and to share parking with the adjacent property at 2103 NW Loop 410 – passed unanimously.
- Procedures for obtaining a financial advisor – City Manager Michael Rietz recommended going forward with retaining a financial advisor to develop a relationship. Mr. Rietz was requested to contact three or four firms for interviewing – no action taken.
- Approving an Emergency Medical Services (EMS) agreement whereby the City of San Antonio will provide EMS coverage for the City of Castle Hills and to authorize the mayor to sign the agreement for a term of one year – passed unanimously.
- Amending the FY 2007 Budget for the EMS Contract year 2008 – passed unanimously.
- Amending the FY 2007 Budget for the purchase of a Christmas tree to be displayed at the Commons – passed unanimously.
- Amending the FY 2007 Castle Hills Crime Control and Prevention District budget – passed unanimously.

- Appointment to the Castle Hills Crime Control and Prevention District – Betty Chandler appointed – passed unanimously.
- Consider and act upon eliminating the position of Municipal Court Clerk and creating the positions of Municipal Court Administrator and Municipal Court Administrative Assistant – passed, 3-2; Council members Glass and Gregory opposed.

November 13, 2007

Consider and act upon:

- Recommendations of the Architectural Review Committee for an application from Jose R. Ford, 6900 Blanco, LTD, to renovate the exterior of the existing retail center located at 6901-6999 Blanco Rd – passed unanimously.
- Consider and act upon approval of an engagement letter with Virgil W. Crawford, CPA, to conduct the FY 2007 annual city audit – passed unanimously.
- Amending Chapter 5, Building and Building Code by adopting new Section 5.206 Authorized Hours of Construction and amending Section 5.501 to limit the exterior materials of accessory buildings – passed unanimously.
- Re-plat for the property located at 111 N. Dogwood – passed unanimously.
- Resolution waiving the rights in a triangular piece of land at the southeast corner of S. Manton and N.W. Military Highway – passed 3-2; Council members Gregory and Glass opposed.
- Ordinance amending Chapter 16 Municipal Court amending Section 16.202.7 State Judicial Fund and adding Section 16.202.8 Indigent Defense Fund and prescribing fees – passed unanimously.
- Ordinance amending Chapter 26, Trespass and Miscellaneous Crimes by adopting Section 26.800, Trespass of Municipal property – motion to table this agenda item until December was unanimous.

Entering into a Mutual Aid Agreement providing for reciprocal firefighting and other emergency services assistance between fire departments – passed unanimously.

- Design for the monument sign at the Cas Hills and Blanco Rd. entrance – passed unanimously.
- Request from Bexar Appraisal District to approve a FY 2007 budget amendment from the anticipated surplus to provide for contingencies – failed 4-1; Council member Glass voted for.
- Resolution casting five votes in the Bexar Appraisal District Board of Directors election – Lamar B. Gillian, Jr. nominated; passed 3-2; Council members Glass and Davis opposed.

December 11, 2007

Consider and act upon:

- Consider and act upon the recommendations of the Zoning Commission on a request to rezone the property located at 2103, 2151, and 2161 NW Loop 410 from “H” Special District to “G” General Business District – passed unanimously.
- Consider and act upon a re-plat for the property located at 306 Krameria – passed unanimously.
- Consider and act upon a resolution authorizing use of CIED Funds for decorative street lights – passed 4 votes for and 1 abstention (Douglas Gregory).
- Consider and act upon an ordinance adopting *North Central News* as the official newspaper – passed unanimously.



COUNCIL COMMENTS



**Marcella Huff
Place 1**

It is hard to believe that another year is almost over. Where has the time gone? I hope that you were able to attend the first annual tree lighting ceremony at

The Commons. Our new tree is beautiful and the tree lighting served as another good reason for residents to come together.

I have learned that there is a rumor regarding the cost of the tree. I hope that you will all remember that rumors are usually misleading. If anyone has questions about how your tax dollars are being spent please ask. You can call me, other council members, the mayor, or our city administration. Of course, attending city council meetings is a good way to learn what is happening in city government. Any resident who attended the meeting when the purchase of the tree and its cost were discussed will know exactly how much was spent and that there was money available for the purchase.

There is still much to accomplish. Insuring that Castle Hills remains beautiful and that residences and commercial property is maintained, encouraging business owners to join together to help achieve a retail environment that will help attract other businesses, encouraging citizens to serve on boards and committees to maintain our high level of citizen involvement in our city are just a few of the items on my "to-do" list. I know that working together, much can be achieved. As always, I can be reached at 349-6857.

I wish you and your family a Happy Hanukah, or the very merriest of Christmases and to all a wonderful, prosperous, happy, and healthy New Year!

See you at the next council meeting!



Douglas Gregory
Place 2
Mayor Pro Tem
City Treasurer

As we near the close of 2007, I want to wish one and all a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year! Recently Castle Hills had it's first Christmas tree lighting ceremony. Hot chocolate, cookies and singing Christmas songs around a beautifully decorated and lit tree brought many friends and neighbors together in a wonderful toast to the holiday season. If you missed it be sure to attend next year.

2008 is setting up to be very eventful. If Bexar Met ever quits dragging it's feet in providing SAWS the necessary information to consummate their purchase of our sewer system, the City can concentrate on deciding whether to issue bonds to begin major improvements on our streets. Look for notices on when town hall meetings will be held discussing this issue. Even though an old Wall Street adage says "a rumor well told beats the facts any day", the FACTS on any issue are the best tool to use in charting one's future.

Finally, once again, may this Christmas season be all you hope for and 2008 be the best ever!

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



Tim Howell
Place 3

With the Castle Hills Baptist Church lawsuit in the finishing stages, and our budget in good shape, I think now is time to look toward the future, and start discussing ideas that will move our city forward.

We are very lucky to have dedicated citizens who are not only willing to express their ideas, but who are also not afraid to step up and speak their minds. Several residents have called me to express their opinions of the present condition of the streets and by-ways in our city. One of my goals this coming year will be to study our options, then work with the mayor, other council

members and local businesses to increase the beauty of our city, improve our roads, and enhance the image we display to guests passing through our city. With the street maintenance surplus fund at an all-time high, it's time to use some of that money as an investment in our future.

The image we project is one of the most important tools we have to draw new business to our city. As you know, new business creates growth, and growth creates more sales tax dollars. As council members, it is our job to do everything we can to increase those

sales tax dollars. A couple of years ago we were talking about the massive amount of traffic that would be traveling on Northwest Military Highway. If you have driven on Northwest Military lately, I think you will have to agree that this is exactly what is happening. With the new housing developments north of our city and the influx of people that will be traveling down Northwest Military, it is time to put our best foot forward to entice these new visitors to stop and shop in our city.

The Texas A&M evaluation of the city pointed out that economic development would play an important role in our growth and the future of our city. I thank our committee chairman, Don Bankler, and the citizens that worked on that committee, for helping the students of A&M come up with the final recommendations. Business sales tax dollars are an important part of the economic development of the city, and will be the key to our financial stability. We need to concentrate on increasing our business tax dollars, because they, in turn, will keep our ad valorem taxes at bay. In talking with local businesses, I am happy to report that they are willing to work with the city, as well as form an alliance among themselves, to work as a team to enhance their businesses and help bring more revenue to the city. As you can see, all of this economic development is a major key to keeping our city beautiful, our coffers full, and our taxes low.

The mayor and council have moved forward with our Commons area, and the recent assistance of Castle Hills resident Pam Grunwald, with this project will, I'm sure, take it to the next level. As some of you might have already heard, we have purchased our first Christmas tree. This will greatly improve our image; and with the tree being visible from all who pass down Lemonwood and adjacent streets, passers-by will be able to see and enjoy more of the beauty our city has to offer.

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,

This letter is written to you on November 2, 2007. I hope everyone enjoyed a beautiful Thanksgiving celebration. I am grateful for all of our armed forces keeping our great nation a safe country. Thank you, thank you!

In the near future I am hoping our city can begin street repairs. Some streets may need rebuilding. Let's get started!

Some of our citizens have received extra, extra large Bexar Met water bills. This is not right or fair for our citizens to have this happen to them.

May you have a safe and joyful holiday season.

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

Helen Glass



Tom Davis
Place 5

First, I would like to thank the Mayor and City Council members for their unanimous support for my appointment to City Council. When I moved to Castle Hills, I was immediately impressed with the beautiful homes and well manicured yards. As I walk around the city, I am greeted by friendly neighbors and a feeling of comfort and safety. These are qualities we need to keep and insure for the future. We have excellent City Codes and Ordinances that are designed to protect and keep Castle Hills the desirable City that it is. As a resident, I feel it is essential that we all adhere to those Codes and Ordinances. We have many dedicated,

hardworking citizens who serve on numerous City Committees and Boards. Recommendations from these Committees and Boards should always be given serious attention and support. Council decisions must be made on not just the current issue before them, but also with some consideration of how those decisions will effect future generations.

Castle Hills has excellent city services. I feel it is important to support and recognize the commendable jobs performed by our departments of police, firefighters, emergency responders, public works employees, and city staff.

Although Castle Hills has a thriving business community, I feel it is important for our future that the City become more aggressive in our attempts to attract retail businesses that will enhance our City. Furthermore, I would encourage everyone to support and use those businesses already established in our City.

I welcome the opportunity to serve the citizens and City of Castle Hills and look forward to the challenges and opportunities before us. May the Holiday Season bring joy and happiness to all.



Mayor Harper congratulates Tom Davis, appointed to City Council September 11, 2007

FIRE DEPARTMENT
Gerald Riedel, Fire Chief

Seasons Greetings to all!!!
It is my hope that everyone has a safe and joyous holiday season. Starting in January we will be initiating an aggressive campaign regarding the low hanging limbs in the streets and roadways of Castle Hills.



Low hanging limbs are a hazard to both emergency and sanitation vehicles. They are causing physical damage to the vehicles as well as causing obstructions to the clear pathways needed during emergency operations. Castle Hills City Ordinance # 13.503.3 subsection (c) states: **“It shall be unlawful for any tree, shrub, vine, hedge, palm, or vegetation 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 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 clearance must be maintained under all weather conditions and circumstances.”**

In addition sub-section (d) of the same ordinance states: **that except for ground cover, neatly trimmed and maintained at a maximum height of 4 inches, it shall be unlawful to have any tree, shrub, vine, hedge, palm, or vegetation located, grown, planted, maintained or cultivated within a 5 foot radius from any fire plug within the city.**

We are asking for your co-operation in these endeavors for the safety of all residents as well as city employees.

POLICE DEPARTMENT
Donald Davis, Police Chief

Chief Davis has deferred his message to Officer Bret Wosnig

Once again it's Officer Bret Wosnig in for Chief Davis with some important information regarding the safety of our children that I was previously unaware was taking place until I attended a "Teach the Teacher" presentation sponsored by The Bill Blackwood Law Enforcement Management Institute of Texas located at Sam Houston State University. Chief encouraged me to attend and upon my return we agreed that what I learned needed to be offered to the community at large.



GASP or Games Adolescents Shouldn't Play (GASPINFO.com) is about "The Choking Game". It is also known as "Space Cowboy", "Funky Chicken", "Flatliner" and "Blackout" just to name a few. The most frightening thing I learned about this game is that it requires nothing illegal to perform the act! It can be performed alone or with another person. It is fast becoming a deadly problem all the way down to the elementary level.

Basically stated kids these days, and even adults, are depriving their brains of oxygen by choking themselves, with various methods, or having someone else choke them to the point of unconsciousness. The person choked suffers seizures that cause permanent brain damage. Brain cells die each and every time. Outward physical harm comes to those being choked when the other person fails to catch the person as they fall.

The gaspinfo.com website is being updated but they do have a Flash presentation that will automatically play when you visit the site. It's only a few minutes long and will give you a better idea of what I have been talking about. Chief Davis and I are offering two (2) dates for the full presentation in January 2008. The tentative dates are both on Tuesday nights at 6:30 pm in the Castle Hills Municipal Building on January 15, 2008 and January 29, 2008 and will be 45-50 minutes in length.

This presentation is graphic and some of the information might be difficult for younger kids. 5th graders and younger might need to miss the first presentation on January 15th which is going to be as much like the way the presentation was taught to me. The second presentation on January 29th will be for all ages as low as first grade. We were instructed to tailor the program based on the needs of the grade levels that we would be teaching.

Should anyone have a question I can be contacted at bwosnig@cityofcastlehills.com or 210-324-2341 ext 359.

By Bret Wosnig

CODE COMPLIANCE

Rita Hoyl

NEW ORDINANCES

ACCESSORY BUILDINGS: Any accessory building larger than 120 square feet constructed to serve a single-or multiple-family structure subject to the foregoing 75% masonry requirement must also be constructed of masonry to the extent of not less than 75% of exterior overall wall area except that one (1) exterior wall, exclusive of openings, shall be constructed of masonry to the extent of not less than 25% of its exterior. Any accessory building larger than 120 square feet constructed to serve a single-or multiple-family structure not subject to the foregoing 75% masonry requirement must also be constructed of the same materials as the principal structure to the extent of not less than 75% of exterior overall wall area except that one (1) exterior wall, exclusive of openings, shall be constructed of the same materials as the principal structure to the extent of not less than 25% of its exterior. The exterior of an accessory building may not be constructed of sheet metal.

AUTHORIZED DAYS AND HOURS OF CONSTRUCTION:

Work activity, including, but not limited to, erection, excavation, demolition, or exterior alterations or repairs on any building or other structure, is restricted to the hours of 7:00 a.m. to 8:00 a.m. for work preparation activities, 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. for actual work activities and 5:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. for work cleanup activities and vacation of the site, Monday through Friday (except City holidays which may occur during the work week). Work activity, including, but not limited to, erection, excavation, demolition, or exterior alterations or repairs on any building or other structure, is restricted to the hours of 8:00 a.m. to 9:00 a.m. for work preparation activities, 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. for actual work activities and 4:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. for work cleanup activities and vacation of the site on Saturdays. Work activity is prohibited during other hours and on Sundays.

The City Manager is authorized to permit work activity for extended hours and on weekends and holidays for work that cannot be performed during the allowed hours and days of construction due to unusual circumstances that might be detrimental to the property, or for work that would, if delayed, be or create a hazard to public health and safety. The following work activity is exempted from the foregoing prohibitions: (a) any work performed by the homeowner or business owner without contracted labor or contracted assistance; (b) interior painting and exterior painting performed by a contractor; (c) work of any kind performed in an enclosed building by a contractor; and (d) landscaping related activities performed by a contractor (excluding earth moving and structural improvements, which are subject to the work activity limitation). This section does not affect any other prohibitions found elsewhere in this code, such as the prohibition against the creation of noise nuisances.

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

Animal Control



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.

RABIES DRIVE FOR CASTLE HILLS RESIDENTS

If your pets are not vaccinated the City will be host to a Rabies Drive at the City's Public Works building on Saturday, March 8, 2008 between the hours of 8 am and 1 pm. A licensed veterinarian will administer the rabies vaccine and will be offered at a cost of only \$8.00 for pets belonging to Castle Hills residents. Other services will be available.

Castle Hills Cats

Did you see the flyers? 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 over 50 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.



Carrie Andrews, Castle Hills Dispatcher rescued Danvers from a garbage dumpster.



Rick Harada, Castle Hills Public Works Director/Animal Control Officer, volunteered to be Santa Claus. (Rick is not only a Santa, but an angel with the animals.) Thank you Rick!

PUBLIC WORKS
Rick Harada,
Public Works Director



STREETS, ALLEYS, DRAINAGE DITCH

Who is responsible for maintenance?

Streets – Public Works Street Department repair pot holes and crack seal. We replace traffic signs and street name signs.

Alleys – “Out of sight, out of mind”; this may be true for many of us. As with our lawns, *residents are responsible* for keeping alley ways free and clear of weeds, brush, shrubbery, or any vegetation greater than five inches in height to the center line of the alley. Overhanging brush can cause injury to our employees and equipment. Additionally, storing brush, tree limbs or any trash is not allowed unless it has been placed for collection in accordance with garbage regulations.

Public Works fills pot holes in alley ways as well. Excess water caused by draining swimming pools and allowing water from sprinklers to enter the alley cause deterioration of the alley. If you see water draining from a neighbor’s yard into the alley, please bring it to their attention or call Code Compliance. While water is essential to our everyday lives, it is a detriment to our streets and alleys. Water produced by water leaks and rains cause damage to the streets and alleys by water seeping into the asphalt and traffic traveling over the openings causing the asphalt to begin cracking thereby creating pot holes.

Drains - During the past several months, we have spent many hours clearing debris obstructing the drain openings. Some of the debris removed consisted of dirt settlement, while much of the debris we removed was placed in the drainage ditch by residents or lawn service individuals. We removed piles of trash, leaves, tree limbs, logs, or bags containing brush. Not only is this practice prohibited by ordinance, but it can be avoided with your help. If you have excess brush, call me and I can offer a quote/surcharge to

have it removed from your property usually within 24 hours. If you are paying a lawn service to maintain your property, have them remove the bags or brush from the property.

Unless there is a holiday, brush service is provided to all residents each Wednesday. We will pick up the equivalent of three (3) 30-gallon cans per week. Do not mix brush with your household garbage.

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

BRUSH REGULATIONS

Trees and limbs cannot exceed three inches in diameter and five feet in length and should be stacked neatly on the ground if not in bags. Collectors will not service more than the equivalent of three 30-gallon garbage cans on any one call. Brush collection is provided once a week (except during a holiday week).

Do not mix garbage and brush in the same container.

FOOD NEWS



The City of Castle Hills has about 50 permanent food service facilities ranging from those selling only packaged foods and limited menu fast-food operations to full service restaurants and all you can eat buffets. In addition, a number of events such as school carnivals, fund raisers and business promotions are held each year with food vendors having temporary food service operations.

All of these food service activities are open to the public and must have a City Food Permit. The following three basic food safety principles apply to all facilities:

(1) Food items and ingredients must be from approved sources. (Foods prepared in a private home are not considered as being from an approved source for sale to the general public).

(2) Keep cold foods cold (at least 41°F or below) and keep hot foods hot (at least 135°F or above). Temperatures between 41°F and 135°F are in the Danger Zone and must be discarded after four hours.

(3) Wash hands before starting work and after handling raw foods, cleaning or visiting the restroom.

Don't worry about that backyard Bar-BQ you are planning for all your friends and relatives next month. This isn't a public event and you won't need a City Food Permit. But if you are planning to build a new restaurant, reopen an existing food facility that has been closed or just planning to sell hot-dogs at a fund raiser contact our Administrative Offices at (210) 342-2341 to see what type of permit will be needed.

**Winter Averaging November
15th – March 15th**

During this period, please be conscientious of your water consumption. Your new sewer rate will be based on a three month average water usage during this time. The more you use, the higher the rate.

Your Community

THE COMMONS

By Pam Grunwald

I hope everyone has noticed the new shrubs that were planted in a couple of months ago throughout The Commons and the defined flowerbed around the Commons sign. The planting method we used was placing a layer of newspaper, a layer of garden soil and topped this with mulch.

In 2008 we plan to build more defined beds and add numerous native and colorful plants. The goal is to have a beautifully landscaped area that is easily maintained. In the future, we hope to obtain a cistern to capture the water from the Fire Station to meet the water needs for The Commons.

Hats off to Rick Harada and his crew for all their hard work!





Tree was purchased from Arnett Marketing



Pictured left to right-Frank Baez, Carlos Calderon, Vicente Flores, Robert Sanchez, and Rick Harada



Christmas Tree Lighting Celebration at The Commons



Employee Highlights

Welcome
New Employees



Curtis Covey - Firefighter



Wendy Reyes – Court Administrator

RETIREMENT



Mayor Harper congratulates Firefighter Frederick W. Evans retiring with 33 years of service.

**HOLIDAY
GARBAGE COLLECTION SCHEDULE
PLEASE CLIP & SAVE!**



DECEMBER 2007

- December 24 - South of the Loop
- December 25 - CHRISTMAS HOLIDAY**
- December 26 - North of the Loop
- December 27 - South of the Loop
Garbage & Recycle
- December 28 - North of the Loop
Garbage & Recycle
- December 31 - South of the Loop
Garbage & Recycle

No brush collection this week

JANUARY 2008

- January 1 - NEW YEAR'S HOLIDAY**
- January 2 - North of the Loop
- January 3 - South of the Loop
Garbage & Recycle
- January 4 - South of the Loop
Garbage & Recycle

No brush collection this week

- January 21 - MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. DAY**
- January 22 - South of the Loop
- January 23 - North of the Loop
- January 24 - South of the Loop
Garbage & Recycle
- January 25 - North of the Loop
Garbage & Recycle

No brush collection this week

FEBRUARY 2008

- February 18 - PRESIDENT'S DAY HOLIDAY**
- February 19 - South of the Loop
- February 20 - North of the Loop
- February 21 - South of the Loop
Garbage & Recycle
- February 22 - North of the Loop
Garbage & Recycle

No brush collection this week

**D.A.R.E. GRADUATION
AT CASTLE HILLS ELEMENTARY**



Left to right: Principal Lori Gerd in; 5th Grade Teachers Richard Swallows, Neil McGinnis, Julia Schneider, Pat Carpenter ;Asst. Principal Steve McCarthy; Castle Hills

DARE Officer Bret Wosnig .Overall 5thgrade DARE essay winner & recipient of a \$50WalMartgift card is Matthew Goree. There were four winners, one from each 5thgrade classroom.. The essays that the students turned in are for grades in Language arts and Health.



**New Businesses
“Shop Castle Hills”**

- Ace Cash Express** – 7117-1 Blanco Road
- Adriana’s Hair-Nail Studio** – 1011-A Jackson Keller
(Beauty Salon Hair Products)
- Advanced Data Sales** – 812 Lockhill Selma *(IBM Computer Integrator)*
- Catalyst Physical Therapy** – 2210 NW Military Highway
- Communication Headquarters** – 6997 Blanco Road.
- Dough Pizzeria Napoletana** – 6989 Blanco Road
- Dr. Phil’s Dentistry** – 8008 West Avenue
- Global Recruiters of San Antonio** – 1100 NW Loop 410, #506
- Hale Dental, PA** – 1100 NW Military Hwy., #511
(Dental services)
- In-Courage** – 8055 West Ave., #106 *(Retail gift store)*
- Law Offices of Michael Fox** – 1100 NW Loop 410, Suite #302
- Law Offices of Ronald A. Ramos, PC** – 1844 Lockhill Selma #102 (Attorney)

- Lenny’s Sub Shop** – 7115 Blanco, #107 (Sandwich Shop)
- Magnum Staffing Service** – 7115 Blanco Road, #116
- MBI Mortgage, Inc.** – 1100 NW Loop 410, #350
- Mufungo** – 2211 NW Military Hwy., #127A *(Gift store/ Jewelry/Tabletop/Home Décor)*
- Rene’s of Castle Hills LLC** – 2104 NW Military Hwy. *(Hair Salon)*
- Seniors Retirement & Tax Services** – 1100 NW Loop 410, #303
- Terry Engineering** – 141 Danube, #103 *(Civil Engineering Consulting Firm)*
- The CME Group Inc.** – 1901 NW Military Hwy., Suite #201
- The Trumbull Team** – 141 Danube, #101 *(Realty)*
- Unikas** – 2000 NW Military Hwy., #1 & #2
- Vision Source** – 2210 NW Military Hwy., #100

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

- Alamo Factory Direct** – 2161 NW Loop 410 (Furniture & Mattress Retail Store)
- Bike City** – 7115 Blanco Road, #112 (Bikes, bike parts, accessories)
- CTP** – 1919 NW Loop 410, Suite 200 (Travel planners)
- Hogan Real Estate Services** – 1618 Lockhill Selma (Real Estate Property Development & Management)



2008 CITY HOLIDAYS

- New Year’s Day – January 1*
- Martin Luther King Jr. Day – January 21*
- President’s Day – February 18*
- Memorial Day – May 26*
- Independence Day – July 4*
- Labor Day – September 1*
- Veteran’s Day – November 11*
- Thanksgiving Day – November 27 & 28*
- Christmas Day – December 25*

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 Place 1:.....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 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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