



CASTLE HILLS Horizon

City of Lewisville's Official Publication

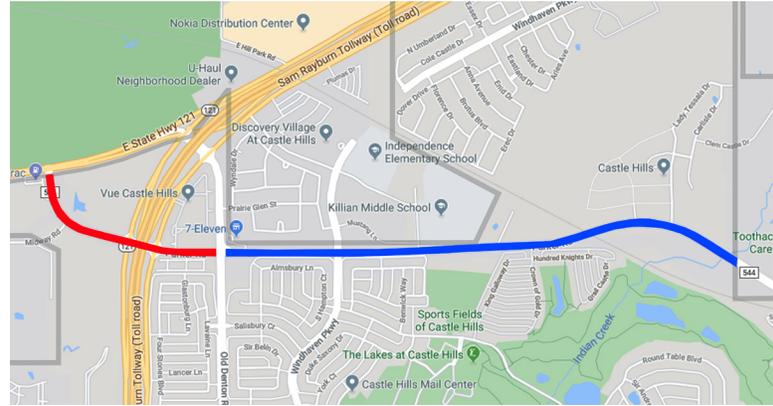
February 2020

TxDOT sets speed limits on FM 544

The Texas Department of Transportation has completed the widening of FM 544 and has now set the new speed limits for this roadway.

The project expanded FM 544 from two lanes to six, starting at FM 2281 (Old Denton Road) going to the east city limits of Lewisville.

As illustrated in the map to the right, the new speed limit on FM 544 from SH 121 Business to FM 2281 (Old Denton Road) will be 45 miles per hour. This section is marked in red. The new speed limit from FM 2281 (Old Denton Road) to the east city limit, just past the Indian Creek overpass will be 50 miles per hour. This section is marked in blue.



TxDOT established these speed limits after conducting engineering and speed studies. This is TxDOT's standard practice after the completion of a major roadway construction project. The speed study involves collecting the 85th percentile speeds, the prudent speed at which 85 percent of the drivers can be reasonably expected to drive under ideal traffic and weather conditions.

Lewisville Mayor provides answers to property tax appraisal questions



With possible annexation of Castle Hills happening as early as July 2021, attendees at the Jan. 30 quarterly public meeting had several questions about property appraisals and property taxes.

Lewisville Mayor Rudy Durham has served on the City Council since 1994 and as mayor since 2015. He also recently retired as Chief Appraiser for Denton Central

Appraisal District. This gives him a detailed understanding of both topics, so city staff asked him to answer three of those questions.

Q. How are property appraisals determined?

A. Appraisals are based on market value, so really it is whatever recent sales are in the neighborhood. Factors include square footage, unit price, and condition of the property. The appraisal district is required by state law to base taxable values on their best understanding of current market values.

Q. How are property appraisals and property tax rates connected?

A. They really aren't except that both numbers are used together to determine the property tax that is owed for each individual property. There is no coordination. The district and the cities don't meet to talk about it. In fact, cities and other taxing agencies are prohibited from even talking to the appraisal district about changing values. There are safeguards in state law to prevent values from being set based on revenue targets.

Q. Will property values in Castle Hills be impacted by annexation into Lewisville?

A. The city you're located in has nothing to do with values.

The appraisal district doesn't even look at that. The neighborhood you are in matters, but the city doesn't. Appraisals are based on what is happening at your property and at properties in your immediate area.

The City of Lewisville has set up a special website page just for Castle Hills residents - cityoflewisville.com/castlehills. The page has answers to questions such as this and other topics of interest dealing with pre- and post-annexation.



LPD enhanced patrols January 2020

The City of Lewisville and the Denton County Fresh Water Supply District 1-A have an agreement to expand Lewisville Police Department services in Castle Hills.

Each month, in this newsletter, we will include an update on those enhanced patrols.

During January, LPD worked 484 hours in Castle Hills, responding to 401 calls for service. Officers made 113 traffic stops, which resulted in 14 citations. January's average response time to Castle Hills was 7.37 minutes. Citywide response times averaged 5.68 minutes.

The highest number of service calls (75) was for Close Patrols.

Close Patrols are requested by the homeowner during periods of absences.

Lewisville Council retreat set for Feb. 20-22

Lewisville City Council will hold its annual planning retreat Thursday, Feb. 20-Saturday, Feb. 22, in Lewisville and Grapevine to identify opportunities expected in 2020 and beyond.

The first two days of meetings will be held at the Lewisville Convention Center in the Hilton Garden Inn, 785 State Highway 121. Topics of discussion for those two days cover the Lewisville 2025 Touchpoint and 2035 Plan Development, recycling programs, water utility master plan, short-term rentals, budget, and much more.

There will be a special Castle Hills Update presentation made on Thursday.

The third day of the retreat will be held at City of Grapevine Public Safety Facility, 1007 Ira E. Woods Avenue in Grapevine. Topics of discussion on this day cover space utilization, capital planning, and a tour of the safety facility.

Most sessions are open to the public, although the format does not include opportunity for formal public comment. City Council will hold some discussions in closed session, in accordance with state law, but any Council votes will be conducted in open session.

Lewisville Talks – City Speaker Series presents Sandra Brown



The Lewisville Talks - City Speaker Series continues to insight curiosity and promote meaningful conversation with its next speaking engagement featuring bestselling author Sandra Brown on Wednesday, April 8, 7 p.m., at Medical City Lewisville Grand Theater, 100 N. Charles Street.

The Lewisville Talks - City Speaker Series brings national influencers to Lewisville to discuss current events, trends, and ideas that can enrich people's lives and create a discussion forum for the future of communities, residents, and community leaders.

Writing professionally since 1981, Brown has penned more than 71 New York Times bestsellers.

Brown holds an honorary Doctorate of Humane Letters from Texas Christian University, where she and her husband Michael Brown, have instituted the ELF, a scholarship awarded annually. She has served as president of Mystery Writers of America, and in 2008 was named ThrillerMaster, the top award given by the International Thriller Writer's Association.

Arrangements for the appearance of Sandra Brown made through Hachette Speakers Bureau, New York, NY.

This event is reserved seating only. Tickets are \$15 for adults, \$5 students (available for will-call pick-up only, IDs will be checked at the event), Tickets are available on MCLGrand.tix.com. \$10 Lewisville and Castle Hills resident tickets can be purchased in person at MCL Grand.

JB and the Moonshine Band to headline St. Paddy's Texas Style

JB and the Moonshine Band headlines the St. Paddy's Texas Style event on Saturday, March 14, noon-7:30 p.m., at Wayne Ferguson Plaza, 150 W. Church Street.

This free, family-friendly event blends traditional Irish music with Texas country and tributes. It also will include carnival-type activities for children ages 4-13, and a mobile axe-throwing trailer. There is a separate charge for the axe-throwing activity.

Students from the Inishfree School of Irish Dance will kick things off at noon on the Sloan & Williams Winery Stage in Wayne Ferguson Plaza.

For more details on performers and set time, please visit the Special Events & Festivals page on cityoflewisville.com.

Resident question of the month

Castle Hills residents have a lot of questions related to planned annexation. Each month, this newsletter will include a featured question and answer raised during the quarterly public meetings, city website, or email.

QUESTION: Has zoning for Josey Lane Elementary been completed? If my child is zoned for Hebron High School, will they be switched to The Colony High School?

ANSWER: Josey Lane Elementary is scheduled to open August 2021. The zoning map will be completed in the fall of 2020. Existing Castle Hills students (all of Castle Hills is in the Lewisville ISD) currently zoned for Hebron HS will not switch to TCHS. All of the new development, including the new Josey Lane Elementary area, has always been zoned for The Colony feeder schools. You can find a map showing what sections of Castle Hills feeds into Hebron High School and The Colony High School at: bit.ly/LISDmap and bit.ly/LISDfeeders.

City Calendar

Monday, Feb. 10

Teen Art Workshop
"Metal and Leather jewelry"
MCL Grand

Saturday, Feb. 15

Saturday at the Cabin
LLELA

Sunday, Feb. 16

Game Day at the Library
Lewisville Public Library

Saturday, Feb. 22

Songwriter's Workshop
Mary Gauthier
MCL Grand

Sunday, Feb. 23

Black Box Songwriter Series
Mary Gauthier
MCL Grand

Sunday, Feb. 29

Leap Year Carnival
Lewisville Public Library