

# City of CASTROVILLE

## Monthly Newsletter

December 2017



### CUSTOMER ALERT

PLEASE BE AWARE...It has come to our attention that a company known as Doxo, Inc., accepts payments intended for the City. This company is NOT affiliated with the City of Castroville. A link to their website appears during a web search for the City of Castroville Utilities online bill payment. We are NOT in partnership with this company and have NOT authorized their use of our logo or materials. We do not recommend the use of this third-party payment site. Payments made in this manner are NOT paid directly to the City and are NOT immediately transferred to the City. This causes payment delays which could cause service interruptions. Late fees and other fees may also be charged to the customer. If you enjoy the convenience of secure online bill pay please visit our City of Castroville website at [www.castrovilletx.gov](http://www.castrovilletx.gov), other payment options include automatic bank draft and direct pay. Gain access to our payment portal by visiting our website and clicking on the "Online Bill Pay" link.

### City Offices will be Closed

December 25-26,  
2017  
January 1, 2018

### INDEX

How to read your meter...2  
 Sign up for I-info.....2  
 Follow the Code.....3  
 Garbage Collection/ Tree Pick-up.....3  
 City/Board Meetings.....4  
 CCR Reports.....4

### Holiday Tips

The following tips were compiled, in cooperation with the Castroville Police Crime Prevention Section, to contribute to the safety and security of people during the holiday season. The holiday season is always a special time of year. It is also a time when busy people become careless and vulnerable to theft and other holiday crime. We can never be too careful, too prepared or too aware. The Castroville Police Department wishes you a safe, happy and peaceful holiday season.

- Avoid driving alone or at night.
- Park as close as you can to your destination in a well-lighted area and take notice of where you parked.
- Never leave your car unoccupied with the motor running or with children inside.
- Do not leave packages or valuables on the seat of your car. This creates a temptation for thieves. If you must leave something in the car, lock it in the trunk or put it out of sight.
- When approaching or leaving your vehicle, be aware of your surroundings. Do not approach alone if there are suspicious people in the area.
- If you must use an ATM, choose one that is located inside, like a mall, or well-lighted location. Withdraw only the amount of cash you need.
- Protect your PIN by shielding the ATM keypad from anyone who is standing near you.
- Avoid overloading yourself with packages. It is important to have clear visibility and freedom of motion to avoid mishaps.
- Do not throw your ATM receipt away at the ATM location.
- Shop during daylight hours whenever possible.
- Avoid carrying large amounts of cash, pay for purchases with a check or credit card when possible.
- Notify the credit card issuer immediately if your credit card is lost, stolen or misused.

#### City Hall

1209 Fiorella Street  
 Castroville, TX 78009  
 830.931.4070  
[Castrovilletx.gov](http://Castrovilletx.gov)

#### Police Department

411 London Street  
 Castroville, TX 78009  
 830.931.2222  
[Castrovilletx.gov/2225/](http://Castrovilletx.gov/2225/)  
 Police-Department

#### Public Works

703 Paris Street  
 Castroville, TX 78009  
 830.931.4090  
[Castrovilletx.gov/2289/](http://Castrovilletx.gov/2289/)  
 Public-Works

#### Castroville Municipal

##### Airport

10500 Airport Road  
 Castroville, TX 78009  
 830.931.0234  
[Castrovilletx.gov/2338/](http://Castrovilletx.gov/2338/)  
 Castroville-Municipal-Airport

## HOW TO READ YOUR METER

Electrical meters are located on the outside of your home, between the power line coming from the pole and your electrical panel inside. They record how much electricity you are using. Reading an electric meter is actually pretty simple, you just need to know what you are looking at.

### Reading Your Analog Meter

1. Your analog electrical meter usually has between four and six dials that advance as a central disk turns. The disk is turned by the electricity passing through the meter, giving a readout of how much electricity you used.
2. Read the dials on your electrical meter from left to right. Do not let the direction of the numbers on each dial confuse you. Some of the dials will be numbered clockwise and other dials may be numbered counterclockwise. Look exactly where the arrow is pointing. If the arrow is pointing between 2 numbers, the reading is the smaller number. If the arrow is pointing directly on a number, verify what the number should be by referencing the dial to the right of it. If the arrow on that dial is past zero, the dial to the left is the number the arrow is pointing to. If the arrow on the right-hand dial is not to or past the zero yet, the reading on the dial to the left is the previous number.
3. Begin on the left, write the numbers down this will be your electrical meter reading.



### Reading Your Digital Meter

1. A digital electrical meter records the amount of electricity your household is using electronically. Thus, a digital electrical meter is much simpler to read than a traditional meter because it has fewer readings to decipher.
2. Your meter should have a digital readout that gives you one long series of numbers. The exact configuration on this readout will vary depending on the manufacturer.



### Calculate the Kilowatt Hours

The City does not reset the electrical meter to zero after every reading. This means that in order to calculate the number of kilowatt hours you have used, you need to keep track of consecutive readings. Subtract the current reading from the last reading you were billed for to get the most recent kilowatt hours used.

**For further questions please Contact City of Castroville Public Works at 830-931-4090.**

Enroll in I-Info to receive emergency information and updates during water and power outages. Please take a moment and visit <http://r.i-info.com/rc/arc> and register.

**ATTENTION  
MEDINA COUNTY  
RESIDENTS!**  
**Please Sign Up Today**  
To Receive  
Emergency Notifications  
From Medina County and all 5 Cities!

 <http://r.i-info.com/rc/arc>

## Be a Good Neighbor, Follow the Code

### Roaming Animals in Our City

In the past few months our City has received an increased number of complaints about loose dogs in the neighborhoods. The City has strict ordinances about to the control of pets and at no time are they allowed to roam off its property without their owner and being on a leash. City animal control will be out working these issues and if your pet is located they will be transported to the animal control facility and the owner will be required to pay holding charges and be fined. Please take care of your pets so they do not have to spend the holidays in a cell. Thank you, Chief Filline



- Keep your pets secured **INSIDE** your home. Even dogs in fenced yard finds ways to escape the scary sounds.

- Update their IDs and Microchips (just in case.)

- Give them a safe place to hide. Set up a comfortable room or crate in your home just for them.

- Use ambient noise for a calming effect. Playing comforting music works well.

- Skip the celebration and stay home. Sometimes your presence makes all the difference.

- Keep them busy. Treat toys can help distract them during the display.

## Holiday Pet Safety

Now that the holidays are on the way, people will be spending more time indoors entertaining which could mean trouble for those who want to include their pets in the merrymaking. Some simple tips to keep pets and their people safe as we get ready for holidays.

1. Holiday goodies of any sort should be kept away from your pet. Chocolate and raisins can actually be toxic to many animals.
2. Candies and gums with the artificial sweetener Xylitol can also be toxic to pets.
3. It may be tempting, but don't give your pet food off of the table. The rich foods we eat typically during the holidays eat can be hard on your animal's stomach and may lead to intestinal upset and diarrhea.
4. Remember, poultry bones, *including turkey*, are a choking hazard.
5. Unsure how your pet will react to all the new faces in the house? Create a safe, comfortable place for your pet to relax. Make sure you put out plenty of fresh food, water and toys.
6. Pay attention to your companion animal. Pets are often ignored in the rush and excitement of the holidays. This can lead to destructive boredom and mischief.
7. Traveling with your pet during the holiday? Make sure you bring all your pet's supplies including food, dishes, leash and collar, toys as well as any medications your pet may be need.

Think your pet may have ingested something toxic? Call the Pet Poison Control Center at 1-888-426-4435 (there may be a charge) or dial the nearest pet emergency clinic. Check the Yellow Pages under "veterinary clinic" for one closest to you.

## Mayor & City Council Contact Information

Mayor, Tim Kelley	210-844-3311	mayor@castrovilletx.gov
Mayor Pro Tem, District 4, Eric Cherry	210-391-6924	district4@castrovilletx.gov
Councilmember District 1, Phyllis Santleben	830-931-1729	district1@castrovilletx.gov
Councilmember District 2, Paul Carey	210-710-4861	district2@castrovilletx.gov
Councilmember District 3, Phil King	210-355-6546	district3@castrovilletx.gov
Councilmember District 5, Victor Ortiz Jr.	830-538-3687	district5@castrovilletx.gov

## City Council & Board Meetings

### City Council

- December 12th at 6:00pm
- December 26th Cancelled
- January 9th at 6:00pm
- January 23rd at 6:00pm

### Parks

- December 19th Cancelled
  - January 16th at 6:30pm
- ### Zoning Board of Adjustment
- December 18th at 6:00pm

### Library Advisory

- December 13th Cancelled
- January 10th at 6:30pm

### Planning & Zoning

- December 13th at 6:30pm
- January 10th at 6:30pm

### Airport

- December 2nd at 9:00am
- January 13th at 9:00am

### Historic Landmark Commission

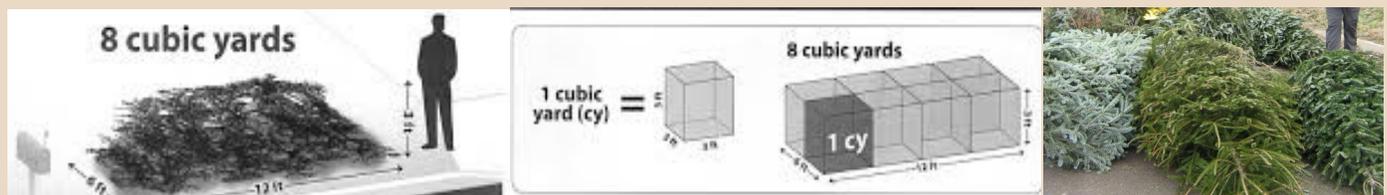
- December 19th at 6:30pm
- January 16th at 6:30pm

Meeting dates and times may change. Check the city's website for up-to-date information.  
[castrovilletx.gov/AgendaCenter](http://castrovilletx.gov/AgendaCenter)

## Garbage Collection Schedule Will not be affected by the Holidays.

Christmas trees can be put out with the regular brush pick.

**Brush Pile Guidelines:** Brush pickup is the 2nd week of every month. Do not set out earlier than one week before scheduled pickup. Please limit brush to eight (8) cubic yards. (See image) Brush must be placed within eight (8) feet of your curb. Bulk pick-up is in June and November. Do not place bulky items out during this collection. Do not place under low-hanging tree limbs or wires, on top of water meters, in front of parked cars, near fences or mailboxes, or other obstructions. Do not place materials on empty lots.



**24 HOUR UTILITY EMERGENCIES 830.931.4091**