

the little Alsace of Texas  
**CASTROVILLE**  
★ TEXAS ★

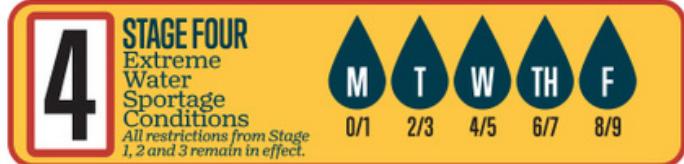


OCTOBER 2024 NEWSLETTER

## LACKLAND AFB REGIONAL PARK CLEAN UP VOLUNTEERS



Our Regional Park draws volunteers from near and far. The group in this photo is from Lackland AFB. All are with the Robert D. Gaylor Non-commissioned Officer Academy, Joint Base San Antonio. Headed up by TSgt Jorge Serrano, they came out last Saturday to help us finish cleaning up the dam, a project started the previous Saturday by a huge group of volunteers from the San Antonio Stake of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints. It is so nice to know that our Park has so many "friends" beyond its borders.



### ALERT: Stage 4 Water Restrictions

Watering with irrigation systems/sprinklers is allowed every other week on your designated watering day. Watering days are based on the last digit of your address. Please call Public Works at 830-931-4090 if you have any questions.



## MAYOR'S CORNER



[mayor@castrovilletx.gov](mailto:mayor@castrovilletx.gov)

## COMMUNITY ROUNDUP RECAP

At the Community Roundup open house for the Castroville Building Block Project, the proposed zoning map and Place Type zoning standards were released for public review. These updates aim to align development with Castroville's historic character.

Visit [castroville.mysocialpinpoint.com](http://castroville.mysocialpinpoint.com) to:

- Find your property and assess zoning.
- Review Place Type and signage specifications.
- Submit feedback and request property changes.
- Join the email list for updates.

Public comments are open throughout October. The project also includes updates to the Comprehensive Plan, Downtown Plan, and Unified Development Ordinance, with draft documents available for review this Fall. Spread the word!





A huge Thank you to Walmart who awarded the Castroville Friends of the Library with a \$1000 grant to help support the library. It is much appreciated and will help us to create more programming for the community. Look for Fall programming soon.

Thank you to everyone who donated to Doris Uhl's Memorial. Doris passed away on August 3, 2024 at her home in Mico, Texas at the age of 93. Doris and her husband, Marvin, made their final move to Castroville to be closer to family where she became involved with the Castroville Public Library. In 2010, the Mayor of Castroville recognized Doris as the "quintessential volunteer" and proclaimed March 26th as "Doris Uhl Day" in Castroville for her "steadfast devotion and love of her community". Our deepest condolences to her family. She will be dearly missed.

## New Library Hours

Starting October 1, 2024

Sunday	Closed
Monday	9:30 am - 5:30 pm
Tuesday	9:30 am - 5:30 pm
Wednesday	9:30 am - 5:30 pm
Thursday	9:30 am - 6:30 pm
Friday	9:30 am - 5:30 pm
Saturday	9:30 am - 1:30 pm

# Notice



to all  
Businesses, Organizations &  
Individuals

## Sign Up Early

Because Lots of "Trunks" will be  
needed

For the 2024 **FCRP Boo Bash**

A Free Family Event  
On  
Sat., October 26<sup>th</sup> from 4:30 – 7:30 PM  
At the  
Castroville Regional Park  
Prizes for Best Decorated Trunk

Call or text Helen at 830-931-4176  
to sign up or for more information!

## CASTROVILLE CITY WIDE YARD



**NOVEMBER 2, 2024**

VENDOR SPACES AVAILABLE

\$5.00-RESIDENTIAL-ADDED TO MAP

\$20.00-HOUSTON SQUARE

REGISTRATION AT CITY HALL STARTING ON OCTOBER 1, 2024

ALL REGISTRATION FEES BENEFIT:

CASTROVILLE NIP & TUCK

## MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL CONTACT INFORMATION

Mayor - Darrin Schroeder  
210.232.4737

District 1 - Sheena Martinez  
830.931.1328

District 2 - Paul Carey  
210.710.4861

District 3 - Phil King  
210.355.6546

District 4 - David Merz, Jr.  
618-406-2940

District 5 - Herb Dyer  
830-931-6354



# MAYOR'S CORNER



mayor@castrovilletx.gov

## THE QUESTION OF THE YEAR: WHAT IS UP WITH THIS NEW AND CONFUSING UTILITY BILL?

After “Snowmageddon” in 2021, Energy Producers have started charging a variable rate for power production, which is something Castroville did not previously have. In an effort to provide full transparency in billing, City Council decided to show the fixed rates (Residential Electr) separately from the variable rates (Fuel Adj). Starting with the February’s bill, you can see the variable rate that the city is being charged for that month by our Power Supplier (LCRA).

This has created a lot of confusion, so I wanted to clear up that confusion. Here’s the breakdown on a usage of 528 Kilowatt Hours used.

### FIXED RATE

The **fixed rate** is set by the city. This is the “*Residential Electr*” line item on your bill.

Base Rate: \$15.00/month flat rate for having a meter connection

+

Usage rate: \$0.0463 for each Kilowatt Hours used for the month

$$528 \times \$0.0463 \text{ (Set Rate)} + \$15.00 \text{ (Base Rate)} \\ \$24.4464 + \$15.00 = \$39.45$$

### VARIABLE RATE

The **variable rate** is set by our Power Provider (LCRA). This is the “*Fuel Adj*” line item on your bill.

Cost of Generation (Called PCRF - Power Cost Recovery Factor) times the number of Kilowatt Hours used for the month, based on their hard costs of generating the power.

$$528 \times \$0.0676 \text{ (Month's Natural Gas Rate)} \\ = \$35.6928$$

### Fixed Rate

+

### Variable Rate = Total

CURRENT BALANCE	\$ 0 . 0 0
RESIDENTIAL ELECTR	39.45
FUEL ADJ @ 0 . 0 6 7 6	35.69
RESIDENTIAL WATER	35.35
GE 03 / 25 / 2024 3 4 8 6 9 5 0	
GAS	23.20
FUEL ADJ @ 0 . 0 0 4 3	3.20
SEWER	40.00
GARBAGE	27.30
WSC	0.25
DRAINAGE FEE	5.00
EAA	5.17
SALES TAX	4.27
CURRENT BILL	\$ 219.04

$$\$39.45 + \$35.69 = \$75.14$$

## Variable Fuel Adjustment Rates for 2024

March	\$0.0652
April	\$0.0652
May	\$0.0792
June	\$0.0799
July	\$0.0679
August	\$0.0676

## Frequently Asked Questions:

(Q) Why make it so confusing?

(A) *Our intent was transparency. The only way we could show what the variable rate was for the month was to list it on a separate line item.*

(Q) Why is the “Fuel Adj” so much higher than my usage amount?

(A) *The “Fuel Adj” is the cost of generating the power (Power Plants, cost of Fuel, Commodities Speculation, etc). The usage amount is just what it costs us to get it to you (from our supplier’s substation, through our power system, to your home or business). It just costs more to generate than it does to distribute.*

(Q) Why is our power so much higher than CPS?

(A) *It’s not – well, not always. CPS charges additional “Peak Capacity Charge” during the summer months (June through September) for anything over 600kWh, but Castroville does not. Additionally for the rest of the year, CPS is generally lower if you use less than 1,400 kWh per month, while Castroville’s rates are lower if you use more than that. The unfortunate reality is that the cost of utilities have gone up across the state and across the country. For Castroville, City Staff and Council will continue to refine the rates to be as fair as possible to everyone and to keep them low as possible without sacrificing quality.*

(Q) Why did we move away from fixed cost per Kilowatt hour?

(A) *This is a new way for power companies to charge so it was a change for us too, and we wanted to be fair to everyone and show you exactly what you’re paying for.*

(Q) Is the Fuel Adj on the gas new too?

(A) *No. Natural gas has been billed this way for years. It’s for the same reason – that is the variable cost from our supplier.*

## Need More Information?

Contact public works via email ([customerservice@castrovilletx.gov](mailto:customerservice@castrovilletx.gov)) or  
Call Public Works at (830) 931-4090