



CITY AT WORK

Spring 2008



City of Pleasant Hill

This City at Work issue highlights the Public Works and Community Development Department public works activities within the City. The Public Works section is composed of two divisions: Engineering and Maintenance. The Engineering Division handles the construction inspection and contract administration for Capital Improvement Projects, such as traffic signals, sidewalks, street paving and storm drains. This Division also addresses traffic issues, encroachment permits for work on public property, floodplain issues, solid waste contract management (trash, recycling and green waste) and new residential and commercial subdivision development, including plan checking and inspections. The Maintenance Division takes care of City landscaping, temporary pothole repair, permanent repair of small potholes, pavement crack sealing, storm drain cleaning, street sweeping and City-owned public buildings (Downtown Parking Garage, City Hall, Public Service Center and Police Department).

Engineering Division

City Hall
100 Gregory Lane
Pleasant Hill, CA 94523
Phone (925) 671-5264
Fax (925) 676-1125
www.ci.pleasant-hill.ca.us/engineering

Maintenance Division

Public Services Center
310 Civic Drive
Pleasant Hill, CA 94523
Phone (925) 671-4646
Fax (925) 676-7628

Steve Wallace, Public Works and Community Development Director 671-5208

Engineering Staff Directory (area code 925)

Mario Moreno, City Engineer 671-5252
Annette Kaufmann, Administrative Secretary 671-5264
Shawn Knapp, Associate Engineer 671-5251
Roderick Wui, Associate Engineer 671-5261
Eric Hu, Associate Traffic Engineer 671-5203
Ann Page, Assistant Engineer 671-5260
Safa Jubboori, Construction Inspector 671-5232

Maintenance Staff Directory (area code 925)

Robert Costa, Maintenance Superintendent 671-4656
Chris Heck, Administrative Secretary 671-4646
Mike Moore, Senior Maintenance Worker 671-5244

To email comments and concerns pertaining to public works operations, please go to the City of Pleasant Hill web site (www.ci.pleasant-hill.ca.us) and then use the CONTACT US pull-down menu to access STAFF E-MAIL (COMCATE).

Important Public Works Operations Numbers (area code 925)

Street Maintenance (potholes, storm drains, sweeping and landscaping)	671-4646
Traffic Issues (parking, signs, signals, striping and traffic calming)	671-5203
Capital Improvement Projects (pavement and storm system rehab)	671-5251
Street Pavement Program (pavement analysis and scheduling)	671-5251
Subdivision Development (grading, plan checking and inspections)	671-5261
Encroachment Permits (sidewalk, driveway, fences and utility repair)	671-5232

TRAFFIC MATTERS

School traffic circulation improvements

Over the past seven years, City staff has been working with Mount Diablo Unified School District to improve traffic circulation on the streets and parking lots at the various public schools in the City. Improving circulation around schools has always been a high priority for the City, due to the heavy traffic congestion and high pedestrian volume that is typically present during morning drop-off and afternoon pickup times.

Why are there traffic problems near schools?

Most of the public schools in the City of Pleasant Hill were designed and built in the 1960s and 1970s, during which school busing and walking were the main means of getting to and from schools. School facilities were designed to manage school bus drop-offs and pickups, with minimal vehicular traffic throughout the day. Public schools were situated within residential communities (along two-lane residential roads) to be within walking distance to local students and to be part of the residential neighborhood.



Over the past 20 years, alterations in social perception and school district policies triggered drastic changes in the way students commute to and from schools. Students were driven farther distances to attend schools, and school busing services were virtually eliminated with the exception of a few compact buses per school for special education or kindergarten classes. Hundreds of private vehicles flood the low-capacity residential roads and school parking lots during morning and afternoon peak hours, causing a gridlock situation on an otherwise calm residential roadway. The heavy traffic congestion also compromises pedestrian safety in the area, as frustrated pedestrians and drivers try to rush out of the school area as quickly as possible.

What has the City done to increase traffic circulation around schools?

In 2001, the City, in conjunction with the Mount Diablo Unified School District and local residents, planned and implemented parking lot striping modifications and roadway widening at Pleasant Hill Elementary School, Oak Park Boulevard and Pleasant Hill Road. The

—continued on page 2

parking lot restriping provided additional vehicle storage on the school parking lot, and the Pleasant Hill Road/Oak Park Boulevard intersection widening provided extra turning lanes for the school traffic. The improvements greatly reduced the overall traffic congestion for the school, and to date, there have been no reported pedestrian or bicycle related collisions around the school site.

In 2007, the City worked with the Mount Diablo Unified School District and local residents to develop and implement roadway/parking lot improvements for Sequoia Elementary and Sequoia Middle Schools. The two schools are located adjacent to each other along Boyd Road, with the two access driveways only 500 feet apart along the north side of the roadway. The City implemented a new “No Parking” zone along the north side of Boyd Road between the two schools to provide additional vehicle queuing area for school traffic, and new “Keep Clear” zones were striped at the school access driveways to better accommodate vehicle egress out of the two school lots. Signal timing modifications were made at the intersection of Boyd Road and Cleveland Road to better facilitate the high traffic volume leaving the area. The School District has also widened the Sequoia Middle School exit driveway to increase the rate at which vehicles can exit the school parking lot. The improvements have eliminated the gridlock situation on Boyd Road that had previously taken place in the morning and afternoon dismissal times, and the overall wait time experienced by parents picking up the students has been reduced by 25 percent.

What is the City doing now?

The City is currently conducting preliminary field analysis for Viking Drive around Valley View Middle School, College Park High School, and Diablo Valley College. Other school sites in the City will be evaluated based on the extent of traffic congestion or potential for accidents in the area.

If you have any questions regarding the City's effort to improve traffic circulation around schools, please contact Eric Hu, Associate Civil Engineer at (925) 671-5203.

Buskirk Avenue/Monument Boulevard intersection modification

The City has recently modified the pavement striping, markings, and roadway signs in the northbound approach of Buskirk Avenue at the Monument Boulevard intersection to accommodate a triple left turn lane configuration onto Monument Boulevard. The Buskirk Avenue/Monument Boulevard corridor over the years has become a heavily used commute route from the I-680 freeway to the City of Concord and Walnut Creek, and the traffic volume along Buskirk Avenue and Monument Boulevard (near the Crossroads Shopping Center) is approaching existing roadway capacity during the morning and afternoon commute hours. The new triple left turn lane configuration will increase the rate at which the existing traffic signal can process the vehicles exiting Buskirk Avenue, thus will help improve the traffic circulation in the area



PUBLIC WORKS WEEK!

The City of Pleasant Hill will be participating in the National Public Works Week, May 18-24, 2008, with a variety of events. This national celebration seeks to raise the public's awareness of public works groups and issues and to commend Public Works employees, who are dedicated to serving the community. City crews will visit various elementary schools during the week and talk about Public Works.

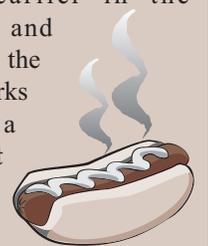
On Saturday, May 24, 2008, several Public Works agencies will be setting up booths and information areas in the City Hall parking lot. They will be available between 9:00am to 1:00pm to help the public learn more about Public Works.

- ✓ The City of Pleasant Hill Maintenance Division will have large equipment and information displays. The Engineering Division will display a model showing how rainwater and pollutants from a city flow to the Bay.
- ✓ The City will have a barbecue and provide free hot dogs and sodas for the public. This is a great opportunity for you to walk around downtown and learn about the various Public Works agencies that support the City.

- ✓ Allied Waste (previously known as Pleasant Hill Bayshore Disposal) will have information about recycling efforts.
- ✓ Contra Costa Mosquito & Vector Control District will have samples and ways to reduce mosquito population around your home and neighborhood.
- ✓ Contra Costa Water District will be sharing water conservation ideas.
- ✓ Central Contra Sanitary District will have a truck with a TV camera to show the insides of piping systems.



Come join us for this fun event. Stop by the Farmer's Market earlier in the morning, and then visit the Public Works booths for a **free hot dog!**





UNDERWAY

Pleasant Hill Oncology Center—400 Taylor Boulevard

The Pleasant Hill Oncology Center is located at 400 Taylor Boulevard, on the northwest corner of Taylor Boulevard and Norse Drive. The project will convert existing office space to full medical use, including the construction of radiation vaults. The first phase of the project is ongoing and includes the demolition of the existing parking lot for the construction of the radiation vaults, construction of an additional parking area, exterior architectural modification and landscape improvements.

Crossroads renovation

The Crossroads Shopping Center located at 2304-2344 Monument Boulevard is undergoing major renovation and remodeling. This includes demolition of the existing indoor mall area (between the Kohl's and the Dollar Tree) and construction of approximately 10,500 square feet of new building area to accommodate an expansion of Friedman's Appliance and additional shops. Other site improvements include resurfacing and restriping the parking lot, and adding parking spaces and new landscaping. Construction is expected to be completed in the summer of 2008.



COMPLETED

Hidden Creek Estates (formerly Rainbow Estates)

This 5 unit subdivision located off of Rainbow Lane and adjacent to Murderer's Creek was completed in January 2008. These homes range in size from 2,890 square feet to 4,130 square feet. This residential project features a new and innovative drainage system that benefits the environment by filtering out pollutants prior to draining into the creek.



Kentucky Fried Chicken/A&W Restaurant

The existing Kentucky Fried Chicken restaurant located at 635 Contra Costa Boulevard has been demolished and replaced with a combination KFC and A&W restaurant. The new restaurant is approximately 3,000 square feet and includes a new drive through lane. Construction of the building and surrounding site improvements was completed in March 2008.



MAINTENANCE MATTERS

Contra Costa Boulevard median landscaping

You may be noticing improvements to the medians along Contra Costa Boulevard. The median between Vivian Drive and Doris Drive was recently enhanced to provide a more eco-friendly environment. The turf was removed and replaced with low-water use plants that are better suited for our climate. The dirt at both median tips was replaced with permeable cobblestone, allowing water to penetrate instead of just washing into the street. Year-round, seasonal color was added through groundcover and small shrubs. The large Canary Island pine trees and liquidambar trees were retained, which provides a nice atmosphere. The trees help filter the air, provide shade, buffer traffic noise, and generally enhance the neighborhood.

This was the second in a series of 17 medians in Pleasant Hill that are part of a

multi-year retrofit project. The plan focuses on removing inefficient turf areas under large, mature trees with extensive root systems. This will save resources, such as water and maintenance, while allowing for more appropriate plantings that are better suited to our local climate. Irrigation technology has advanced greatly in the past few years, providing advantages of new, climate-controlled, and computerized irrigation systems.



Median landscaping

Retrofit work has started on the median between Doris and Doray Drives. Several diseased trees were removed, and the healthy ones will remain. Groundcover and shrubs similar to the other upgraded medians are being planted. The turf was removed, permeable cobblestones will be installed, and seasonal color will be planted. Since there are fewer trees on this median and, therefore, more sun than on Vivian-to-Doris, a drip irrigation system and drought-tolerant plants are ideal for this location.

CONSTRUCTION PROJECTS

For additional information about the following construction projects please visit the City's web site (http://www.pleasanthill.ca.gov/PublicWorks/city_project.cfm) or contact the Engineering Division at (925) 671-5264.

PLANNED

Contra Costa Boulevard —Beth Drive to Gregory Lane

This summer the City will resurface the Contra Costa Boulevard between Gregory Lane and Beth/ Doris Drive. The funding comes from \$540,000 in federal grant monies, \$532,000 in State Proposition 1B funds and programmed Measure C funds to fund the \$1.3 million dollar project. The project will begin in late summer and staff is considering some of the work to take place during nighttime hours in order to minimize the impact to motorists and businesses. The construction scope includes pavement grinding and resurfacing, base failure repairs, minor sidewalk and concrete repairs, new traffic striping, concrete median work, handicap accessible curb ramps and incidentals.



Contra Costa Blvd

Staff has subdivided the City into 24 neighborhood areas for street rehabilitation planning purposes. A portion of the Gregory Gardens subdivision (identified as P1) is rated as having highest pavement needs. The streets in P1 include: Terry Drive; Violet Way; Harriet Drive; Adria Drive; Maxine Drive; Beverly Drive; Jennie Drive; Sylvia Drive; Luella Drive; Cynthia Drive; Rae Drive; Shirley Drive; and Lois Court. (See map below)

As the Street Resurfacing Program allows in future funding budgets, and the collector and arterial streets remain in good and satisfactory condition, staff on City Council's direction will continue to allocate funds to neighborhood areas as scheduled (see city web site for more future planning details).

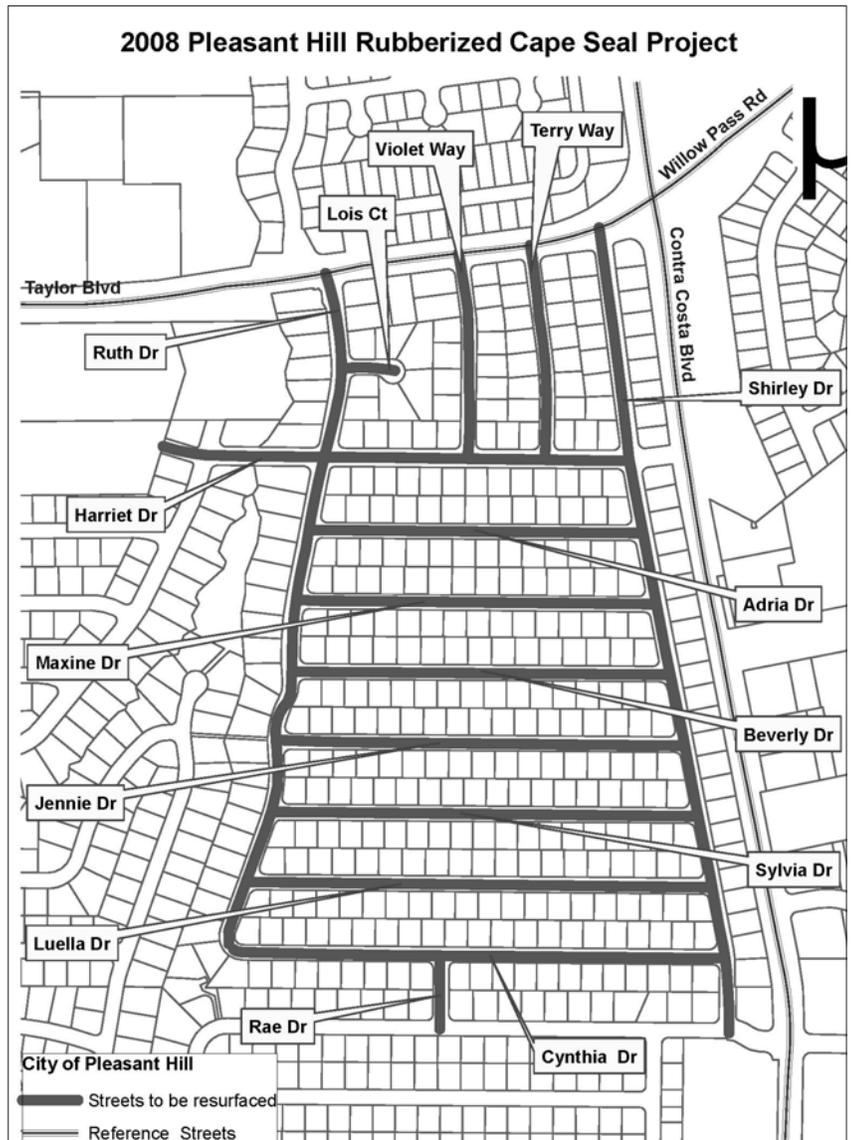
North Marta Drive/Marta Drive drainage improvements

These streets are not connected and dead end at a combination of two private lots and a City lot. A small drainage swale on these lots convey public drainage water between the two public streets. Historically, the drainage swale maintenance through the lots has been problematic for our Maintenance Division and at times localized flooding has occurred. Staff is working with the two private property owners to obtain right-of-way to construct drainage improvements and a sidewalk pathway to close the sidewalk gap between two streets.

2008 street resurfacing project

Staff has completed the rehabilitation of a number of arterial and collector streets as per City Council direction and approximately 85% of our arterials and collector streets in the City are in good to very good condition. Some remainder arterials like Pleasant Hill Road (Gregory Lane to Taylor Boulevard) and Contra Costa Boulevard (Taylor Boulevard to Second Avenue South) qualify and will compete for federal funds in the upcoming years.

The City Council has substantially achieved their goal and direction to rehabilitate arterials and collectors that provide for the economic vitality of the City and have high volumes of traffic to benefit the most users. Now some funding can now be shifted to residential neighborhoods having highest pavement needs.





2008 spring/summer pothole program

Localized pavement failures (more commonly referred to as potholes) occur on our City streets due to weather conditions, pavement overloading, and bad base material and the age of pavement. Potholes that develop throughout the year are temporarily repaired by our maintenance staff to provide a short term fix to the pothole area. The permanent fix performed by a hired contractor requires the excavation of the area and placement of hot mix asphalt concrete. The City has two major pothole projects during the year, one in the winter and later this spring.

New Sidewalk Contra Costa Boulevard/ Harriet Drive/Ellinwood Drive

This program funds the installation of sidewalks at high pedestrian traffic areas in the City. Specific projects are identified in the Sidewalk Priority list. The objective of the program is to make our streets safer for pedestrians including children and senior citizens. The program targets areas adjacent to schools as a priority. The program will also upgrade existing facilities or install new facilities in order to make them compliant with ADA guidelines.

There are two planned project: Contra Costa Boulevard between Harriet Drive and Ellinwood Drive along the west side of the roadway; and between 1736 Ruth Drive and 1636 Ruth Drive in order to close a pedestrian gap.



UNDERWAY

2008 sidewalk repair project

Both the Pleasant Hill Municipal and California Streets and Highway Code place the responsibility of sidewalk repair and hazard liability of damaged sidewalks on the adjacent property owners, unless sidewalk damage is caused by City owned trees or utility services. The Sidewalk Repair Program is divided into four zones in order to allot

and prioritize the work to be done at various locations in the City. Previously the Program focused on completing repairs in Zone 1, 2 and 3. The City sent 1,200 letters in December 2007, to property owners and tenants in Zone 4 explaining the Sidewalk Program. The City inspected sidewalks and publicly maintained facilities in Zone 4 and notified approximately 60 property owners of needed repairs. This project includes approximately 6,000 square feet of sidewalk repair in City sidewalk Zone 4 and other publicly maintained areas. Owners have the ability to make the repairs on their own or contract with the City's contractor at a potential lower cost. The City anticipates beginning the project by May of 2008.

COMPLETED

2007 drainage facilities repair, Project No. 11-07

Last winter the City's contractor completed the repair of 745 feet of curb and gutter and over 2300 SF of valley gutter on various City streets as part of the Storm Drain Maintenance Improvement Program.

Real-time speed feedback signs

The City installed two real-time speed radar signs; one along Taylor Boulevard between Civic Drive and Ruth Drive; and one on Patterson (near Hawthorne Drive). The radar signs are designed to make motorists aware of their speeds, slow them down and comply with the posted speed limits. The signs will also display the "SLOW DOWN" messages when vehicles are traveling at excessive speeds. The signs are solar powered, and will be maintained by the City's Maintenance staff. The signs are part of the City's Traffic Calming Program.



Police Department exterior building repairs

This project corrected building deficiencies related to a history of leaks within the facility. The contractor replaced the wood siding system and installed approximately 12,000 square feet of durable cellular fiber cement board. The replacement of single pane windows and doors with more energy efficient windows and doors was also completed while the siding was removed. The project is substantially complete with the painting of the building currently underway.

Beatrice Avenue Storm Drain Repairs

As part of the Storm Drain Maintenance Program, a deteriorated corrugated steel pipe that crosses the roadway was replaced with an engineered "plastic" pipe. These plastic pipes are designed to resist corrosion, are smoother to help prevent clogging and last longer than standard corrugated steel pipes. Additionally, both catch basins on each side of the roadway and a limited amount of gutter leading up to the catch basin were repaired to improve the storm drain flows at this location.

UTILITY CONSTRUCTION PROJECTS

Important Utility Emergency Phone Numbers



Central Contra Costa Sanitary District (sewer emergencies)	(925) 933-0955
Comcast (TV cable customer service and repair emergencies)	(800) 945-2288
Contra Costa Water District (water emergencies)	(925) 688-8095 (weekdays) or 688-8374 (all other times)
Diablo Vista Water District (private residence)	(925) 938-9510
East Bay Municipal Utility District (water emergencies)	(866) 403-2683
Martinez Water District (water emergencies)	(925) 372-3440 (Martinez Police Dispatch)
Pacific Gas & Electric Company (gas and electric emergency)	(800) 743-5000
SBC (customer repair service)	(800) 310-2355



Ongoing pipe replacement...

PLANNED

East Bay Municipal Utility District (EBMUD)—Grayson Road Project

The East Bay Municipal Utility District (EBMUD), under the Infra Structural renewal Program, is replacing approximately 800 feet of 8-inch Mortar Lined & Plastic Coated Steel Pipe water line on Grayson Road between Tammy Lane and Heritage Hills Drive, due to the higher frequency of breakage in pipes at this location. The installation will be performed by normal trenching on Grayson Road and directional boring across Taylor Boulevard. The project is anticipated to start this summer and be completed within 3 months.

East Bay Municipal Utility District Sunset Road Project

EBMUD under the Infra Structural renewal Program is replacing approximately 645 feet of 6-inch PVC water pipe, 90 feet of 6-inch Mortar Lined & Plastic Coated Steel Pipe water line and three 6-inch gate valves on Sunset Road south of Strand Avenue, due to the higher frequency of breakage in pipes at this location. The installation will be performed by normal trenching. The approximate start date of the project is August 2008 and to be completed in September.

EBMUD Pleasant Hill Road and Oak Park Lane

EBMUD under the Infra Structural renewal Program is replacing approximately 1410 feet of 8-inch and 30 feet of 6-inch Mortar Lined & Plastic Coated Steel Pipe water line and six gate valves on Pleasant Hill Road and Oak Park Blvd. east of Paradise Lane, due to the higher frequency of breakage in pipes at this location. The installation will be performed by normal trenching. The approximate start date of the project is mid June, 2008 and to be completed in September.



UNDERWAY

Mt. Diablo Unified School District water main project

The Mt. Diablo Unified School District is working with the Contra Costa Water District to upgrade and install a “loop system” in order to supply the mandated water flow for the Pleasant Hill Education Center. The improvements require the installation of a new Fire Line and Fire Hydrants and installation of 2250 feet of 6 and 8-inch PVC pipeline along Santa Barbara Road and along Hawthorne Drive to Patterson Boulevard.

COMPLETED

Contra Costa Water District (CCWD)—South Pleasant Hill main replacement project

The project improves water service reliability and provides adequate flow for fire fighting in the southwest portion of Pleasant Hill. Additionally, the project provided permanent pipeline repairs on Chilpancingo Parkway. The water main was located in the eastbound Chilpancingo Parkway left-turn lane at Contra Costa Boulevard. CCWD recently completed the final phases of this project: a) replacement of a short section of the Chilpancingo Parkway water pipeline; b) repairs to adjacent pavement and signal wires; and c) restoration of median landscape at this location.



....keeps the
water flowing!