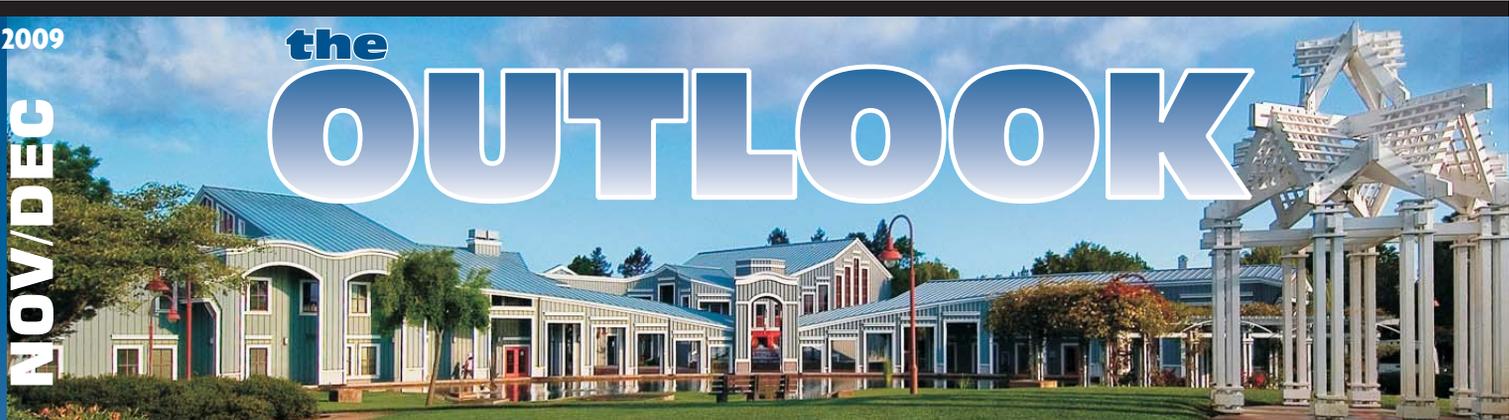


the OUTLOOK



of Pleasant Hill, California



5th Annual Community Service Day— Pleasant Hill shows its community spirit once again

More than 800 volunteers participated in the 5th Annual Community Service Day on

promotion of the event. And thank you to all of the many other businesses, organizations, schools, and churches who contributed so much to this wonderful event. And, finally, a very big thank you to all the volunteers who participated—see you all next year on Saturday, September 25!

Saturday, September 26. A special thank you goes to the Lions Club for breakfast, Allied Waste Services for donating bottled water, and the Contra Costa Times, PH Community Focus and KKDV for their generous

Bicycle Build-A-Thon another great success this year!

The bicycle build-a-thon began six years ago, when Cub Scout Pack 232, which meets at Pleasant Hill Elementary School, decided to take used bicycles, meet at Pleasant Hill Park to repair them, and then donate them to needy kids. The PHPD's Community Resource Officer at that time, Tim Chong, along with other members of the Pleasant Hill Police Department, assisted with the procuring of, and the subsequent distribution of, refurbished bicycles. The following year this event became

—Continued on page 2



DON'T MISS 'Light up the Night' in Downtown Pleasant Hill

Come experience the 2nd annual "Light Up The Night" event in Downtown Pleasant Hill complete with the lighting of a 25-foot decorated tree in the small Plaza on Crescent Drive. Everyone is invited to celebrate the start of the Holiday season with free horse drawn carriage rides, music, cookies and hot chocolate, and a visit from Santa and his elves. There will also be merchant specials for store drawings or opportunities to win special raffle prizes. Light up the Night will take place in Downtown Pleasant Hill from 5:30pm to 8:30pm on Thursday, November 19.

This event is jointly organized by the City of Pleasant Hill, Downtown Pleasant Hill, Pleasant Hill Chamber of Commerce, and Pleasant Hill Recreation & Park District. ♣



'Tis the Season to reduce waste, reuse, and...



The holiday season is a time to celebrate and be grateful for many wonderful things. It is a time to be with family and friends, to enjoy delicious meals, and to exchange gifts. It is a time to appreciate our natural world and acknowledge that all of the food and gifts we enjoy come from many places around the world. And in respect for our fine world it is also a time to practice waste prevention, reuse, and recycling.

See page 3 for **Green Tips** for holiday recycling .

Community Service Day—continued from page 1

a part of Pleasant Hill's first Community Service Day, and it has been a CSD project ever since.

This year, the Police Department donated at least two truckloads of bicycles and the community donated the rest. PHPD Community Resource Officer Kelli Geis coordinated the PHPD's assistance. Not only did they collect bicycles throughout the year, but they trucked the repaired ones back to the PD in order to distribute them to needy kids.

One Pleasant Hill resident was sad to let her touring bicycle go, but was insistent that it be given to a needy teenager. And it will! Another family was able to obtain a beautiful green 10-speed for their foster child, who resides with them in Fairfield. According to this foster mother, when there are not enough foster families in Contra Costa County, some of the children are sent to outlying counties for housing. The majority of the bicycles will be donated to foster kids in Contra Costa County via the Court Appointed Special Advocates of Contra Costa County (CASA), as well as needy families.

It is estimated that there were around 130+ bikes to work with, the majority of which were repaired. Bikes that could not be repaired due to limited time and resources were stripped for parts. There were a number of returning volunteers and a few more mechanics, including members of the Bicycle Trails Council of the East Bay, and the project was completed by 2:30pm. It was one of the smoothest build-a-thons ever, thanks to the dedicated volunteers who worked hard. In the first year of the build-a-thon, repairs were completed by 6pm.

For the last four years, REI has helped repair bicycles, and every year Outback Steakhouse has fed volunteers at no charge. Thanks to everyone who donated and participated in this great community effort. ♣



Changes ahead for street sweeping

Street sweeping changes are currently being evaluated in the City of Pleasant Hill due to compliance with the Federal Clean Water Act and the need to address current and anticipated budget deficits to the City's general fund.

Balancing the need to meet strict clean water guidelines and keeping our City streets and storm drain systems functioning properly are a top priority.

The following changes are being proposed:

- Morello Avenue, Boyd Road, Patterson Boulevard, and Putnam Boulevard will be reduced from weekly sweeping to twice per month. This should have a minimal impact on the streets.
- The commercial arterial streets (Contra Costa Boulevard, Chilpancingo Parkway, Golf Club Road, Boyd Road, and others) which have the most vehicular traffic would be reduced only slightly with little or no effect.
- The residential streets would be reduced from the current once per month cycle to once every other month. This change will be closely monitored and adjusted accordingly if additional sweeping or resources are needed to keep the streets in a safe condition.

These new changes are being proposed to begin this November and continue for a period of one year, after which time an assessment will be made.

There will be no changes to the winter season additional leaf pickup during the important fall and winter months. This portion of the maintenance division's service (extra sweeping as needed during the winter months) will be unchanged due to the need to keep the leaves and debris from clogging the storm drain system and keeping streets safe.

As always please keep debris from entering your street and storm drain system. Rake all leaves and debris on your property and dispose them in the proper green waste container. Please do not dump any green waste or debris into the creek area as this may impede water flows during the coming winter storm season. Working together during these challenging times we can all do our part to manage resources wisely and effectively.

For the latest information and to find out when streets will be swept you can go to the City's website: (<http://www.pleasant-hill.net>). Go to "Services," then select "Street Sweeping" and then select the "Street Sweeping Schedule."

If you have any questions call the Maintenance Division at 671-4646. ♣





Get in the Zone—The GREEN ZONE that is!

In late October the Green Zone celebrated its official opening at a ribbon cutting ceremony attended by the Mayor, community officials, city residents, and visitors to the Pleasant Hill library.

Located in the Pleasant Hill Library, the Green Zone is an extensive collection of resources selected to help children, adults, businesses, and residents who live and work in Pleasant Hill do their own research and reading on environmental concepts and solutions. All materials have a green leaf logo on the spine.

The collection is separated into children and adult materials, including a small reference collection. All materials, except for the reference collection, can be checked out. The collection contains almost 1,200 books, periodicals and audio/visual media resources. And the collection will continue to grow over time. Funding for many of the Green Zone resources comes from a \$10,000 donation from the Friends of the Pleasant Hill Library.

Keep an eye out for the next issue of the Pleasant Hill Outlook for updates on the Green Zone—or better yet, stop by the Pleasant Hill Library to see what's happening in the Green Zone.

For more information on waste prevention, reuse, recycling and composting—and updates on Green Zone programs—visit PleasantHillRecycles.org. ♣

'Tis the Season —continued from page 1

There are many things that we can all do to reduce our impact on our environment while we celebrate the holidays. Here are just a few ideas:

- Donate left-over food from parties to local charity organizations.
- Buy gifts from second-hand outlets such as antique shops, thrift/vintage stores, and used book stores.
- Give non-material gifts such as movie passes, tickets to the theater or sporting events.
- Wrap gifts in newspaper, comics, old maps, and old calendars.
- Properly dispose of used batteries – visit the household hazardous waste facility.

Happy Holidays! For more information on waste prevention and recycling please visit www.PleasantHillRecycles.org. ♣

GREEN tips for the holiday season

—Presented by the Pleasant Hill Chamber of Commerce Green Committee

➤ Buy energy-saving LED holiday lights

LED lights use 90% less energy than conventional lights and can save your family up to \$50 on your energy bill during the holiday season. You can find LED lights at many major retailers, including Target, Costco and Ace Hardware.

➤ Reduce waste

Between Thanksgiving and New Year's Day, Americans generate 25% more landfill waste than during the rest of the year. Bring your own bags to carry gifts, consolidate shopping



trips to cut back on gas, and consider sending holiday cheer with handmade cards, or via the Internet, telephone or in person to cut back on paper waste.

➤ Make your own wrapping paper

Be creative! Wrap gifts in the Sunday comics, magazines, paper grocery bags, old scarves or cloth bags. If every family in the U.S. wrapped three gifts with reused materials, it would save enough paper to cover 45,000 football fields!

➤ Recycle your wrapping paper

If you do choose to use regular wrapping paper, make sure to recycle it—but only if it is non-metallic paper. Metallic wrapping paper and ribbon are NOT recyclable, so please put them in your blue garbage cart.

➤ Recycle your Christmas tree

Recycling holiday trees is easy! Pleasant Hill residents can put their trees out on their regular service day during the week of January 4-8.

➤ Purchase quality gifts

Look for gifts that are long-lasting and reusable. If shopping for electronics look for the most energy-efficient models. Purchase gifts made from organic or recycled materials and avoid materials like PVC. Choose items that have minimal, recyclable packaging. For the person who has everything, make them a nice personalized gift (gourmet dinner, cookies, massage) or donate to charities in their name.

➤ Shop green

Consider doing your holiday shopping at Contra Costa County Green Certified Businesses. Find local businesses at www.greenbiz.ca.gov. ♣

Flooding during the winter can occur in some parts of Pleasant Hill. Here is a roundup of information that residents may need to be prepared in the event of flooding.

Report a flooding problem

To report a flooding problem in your neighborhood, contact the City Maintenance Division simply by calling 671-4646 weekdays during regular business hours. If it is an emergency, please contact the Police Department at 911.

Special Flood Hazard Areas

Certain areas have been designated by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) as Special Flood Hazard Areas (SFHAs). There are currently approximately 700 homes within these flood zones. SFHAs are areas within the 100 year flood boundary as mapped by FEMA. A "100 year flood" refers to a flood level with 1 percent or greater chance of being equaled or exceeded in any given year. There is a 26% chance that a structure located in a SFHA will be inundated by a 100-year flood during the life of a 30-year mortgage. In comparison, the risk of fire is approximately 5% in the same time period. Smaller floods have a greater chance of occurring in any given year and can still create a significant hazard to life and property.

Local flood hazard

Flooding in our City is generally caused by the following: a creek overtopping its banks, clogged catch basin or storm drains, poor site drainage, and mud and debris laden flows from the hills above Pleasant Hill. To find out more information on local flood hazards, or for information on any other flood related question, call the City's Floodplain Manager at 671-5261.

City flood service

If requested, City staff will visit a property to review its flood problem(s) and explain ways to reduce flooding potential or help to prevent flood damage.

Flood maps and flood protection references are available at City Hall and at the Central County Library located at 1750 Oak Park Boulevard, Pleasant Hill 646-6434.

Drainage system maintenance

The City regularly cleans and maintains drainage channels. However, dumping debris into storm drains creates problems for everyone. Such dumping not only results in an expense to taxpayers for cleanup, but also can restrict water flow and create flood hazards. The dumping of debris into the City's storm drainage channels is prohibited by Municipal Code. To report cases of illegal dumping in channels call the Maintenance Division at 671-4646.

Property protection measures

There are several ways to help protect property from flood hazards. The following examples may or may not be economically feasible or practical for every situation:

- Provide adequate drainage paths around structures on slopes.
- Elevate or relocate electrical panel boxes, furnaces, water heaters, and appliances to an area that is less likely to be flooded.
- Move essential items and valuables to the upper floors of your home if flooding is likely.
- Keep materials such as sandbags, plywood, and plastic sheeting handy for emergency waterproofing. Sandbags can be obtained at the Public Service Center located at 310 Civic Drive, Pleasant Hill and during the rainy season sandbag stations are also set up at City Hall (visitor parking lot) and Oak Park Boulevard/Monticello Avenue.
- Anchor the structure to prevent flotation, collapse, or lateral movement.
- Elevate homes so that the lowest floor is a minimum of 1 foot above the base flood (100 year) elevation.

Flood insurance

The National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) makes federally backed

flood insurance available to everyone in the City, whether they are in a floodplain or not. Insurance is available for buildings (including walls, floors, and insulation) and contents (which is also available to renters). It is important to note that the standard homeowner policy that most of us have will not cover a loss caused by flooding. For information about flood insurance, call your insurance agent or the NFIP customer service line at (800) 638-6620.

Please be aware, that the purchase of flood insurance is mandatory for federally backed mortgages on buildings located within SFHAs. The minimum standard flood insurance coverage required by the federal government for a SFHA property is the less of the following: 1) the outstanding mortgage balance on the structure, 2) the replacement cost of the structure or 3) \$250,000 for a residential structure, and \$500,000 for industrial/commercial. This insurance coverage limit does not apply to property outside the SFHA.

Elevation Certificates (EC)

An Elevation Certificate (EC) provides elevation information necessary to determine the proper insurance premium rate. If your house is at or above the base flood elevation, you could receive a substantial discount on your flood insurance premium by providing an EC to your insurance agent.

For properties in Flood Zone AO, an EC can be filled out by the property owner or the owner's representative. For all other flood zones, the EC will have to be prepared by a licensed surveyor or engineer.

Copies of the form and instructions are available from the City Engineering Division or can be downloaded from FEMA's website, www.fema.gov/business/nfip/elvinst.shtm.

The City of Pleasant Hill maintains the Elevation Certificates of all new and substantially improved buildings in the SFHA. To obtain a copy of the certificates or for help in preparing one, call the City's Floodplain Manager at (925) 671-5261.

Flood warnings

- If flooding occurs, the County will warn citizens through radio, TV announcements, and emergency officials and vehicles.
- Know the flood warning procedures and plan escape routes to high ground.
- Monitor the level of water in the street or flood control channel.
- Stay tuned to your battery operated radio and local television channel for possible warnings.
- Turn off water and electricity in your home during flood emergencies; turn off gas only if you smell gas.
- Be especially cautious at night.

For additional information on the City's flood warning and emergency response plan, contact the City Office of Emergency Services, Police Department, 330 Civic Drive, Pleasant Hill, 288-4600.

Floodplain development permit requirements

Any development within the SFHA is subject to Federal and City Floodplain management requirements. Always check with the Engineering Division before you build on, alter, regrade, or fill on your property. To report illegal floodplain development activity, call the City's Floodplain Manager at 671-5261.

Floor Elevation—New residential buildings in the SFHA must have their lowest floor elevation (excluding garage) flood-proofed or raised above the 100-year Base Flood Elevation (BFE).

Substantial Improvements (SI)—Substantially improved structures in the SFHA must meet the same floodplain construction requirements as new buildings. SI is defined as any reconstruction, rehabilitation, addition, or other improvement of a structure, the cost of which equals or exceeds 50% of the fair market value of the structure (excluding land value) before the start of the new construction.

Substantial Damage (SD)—Substantially damaged structures (a structure damaged by fire, earthquake, flood and etc. so that the cost of repairs equals or exceeds 50% of the structure's value before it was damaged) in the SFHA must also meet the same floodplain construction requirements as new buildings.

For additional information on the City's Floodplain Management Program, visit the City's website at www.ci.pleasant-hill.ca.us/flood or contact the City's Floodplain Manager at 671-5261. ♣

Important note from Staff

Residents should be aware that new Flood Insurance Rate Maps (FIRM) DO NOT change their current flood zone designation. In Pleasant Hill, the 2009 FIRM update was only a digital conversion of the 2003 FIRM paper map. There were no additional studies incorporated into the Flood Insurance Study (FIS) which means no changes were made to the limits of the existing SFHA. Thus, no properties were added or removed from the SFHA. If you receive a letter from your lender requesting you to purchase flood insurance due to this map update, please contact the City's Floodplain Manager at (925) 671-5261. Staff can assist you in determining your flood zone designation and providing documentation to your lender. (See page 6)



El Niño weather pattern returns

Given the recent heavy rains in mid October, the El Niño conditions brewing in the equatorial Pacific may well bring the Bay Area a very wet winter. El Niño is simply the warming of eastern Pacific waters off the west coast of South America. It usually peaks in December and occurs about once every 4 years or so.

El Niño for California usually means wetter than average conditions with higher than average storm activity in the Eastern Pacific Ocean. If you recall New Year 2005-06, Pleasant Hill experienced areas of flooding as warm moisture streamed in from a strong storm in the Pacific.

However, not all flooding events in California occur during El Niño years, and not all El Niño years produce widespread flooding. Flooding events in California relate to timing and intensity of storms, and while it is true that storms on a greatly-strengthened subtropical storm track are more frequent in El Niño years, the succession of storms with already saturated soil in a short period of time determine whether or not flooding will occur. Even a day or two between weather systems can make a large difference in the flood potential. Contrary to popular belief, not all effects are negative. On the positive side, El Niño can help ease drought conditions.

Scientists with the National Weather Service Climate Prediction Center expect this El Niño to continue developing with a majority of the model forecasts suggesting El Niño will continue to strengthen with the likelihood of a moderate El Niño this winter. Historic trends and computer models show that with the weak-to-moderate El Niño events, the rainfall is mixed, but with strong El Niño events, the chances improve of a wetter winter.

In and of itself, El Niño doesn't guarantee anything weather wise, but since the phenomenon was first studied in the 1950s, it has proven to bring more intense storms during the winter season.

So, what does it all mean for Pleasant Hill? Weather experts say there's a 50/50 chance the skies could become nasty this winter and the City is preparing in every way to minimize flooding. ♣

New flood insurance rate maps issued by FEMA

On June 16, 2009, the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) adopted new Flood Insurance Rate Maps (FIRMs) for all of Contra Costa County. These FIRMs update the existing maps, which have been effective since December 2003. The updates and changes include the following:

- The map panels have changed from a citywide to a countywide map using standard United States Geologic Survey (USGS) quad maps. This has no effect on the residents or the City, other than changing the layout of the maps for the City.
- The map panels have changed the vertical datum (or reference point) from National Geodetic Vertical Datum of 1929 (NGVD29) to the more current North American Vertical Datum of 1988 (NAVD88). This has no effect on the residents or the City, other than changing the flood elevations numbers shown on the map. The actual physical flood elevations remain the same.
- The maps show digital conversions of the paper maps and now include aerial photography. This has no effect on the existing flood zones.

Printed copies of these new maps are now available at City Hall and at the public library for review. You can also download these maps directly from FEMA on their website at www.msc.fema.gov. Just type in your address in the top left hand corner, and you can download or print the map on your own. ♣



Old flood map



New flood map

County Rapid Response Team provides business assistance to owners and employees

In Contra Costa County, 85 percent of the business community is made up of small businesses, many of which are being forced to lay off employees to survive the current economic conditions.

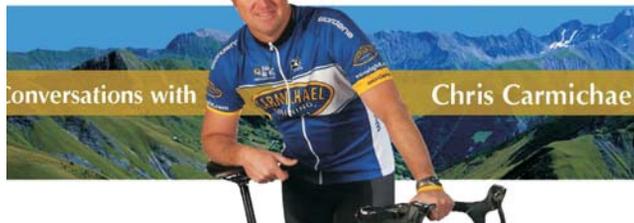
To assist businesses owners and employees with layoffs, the county's Rapid Response team provides free outplacement resources and services to help displaced workers get back to work with minimal downtime.

The Rapid Response team urges businesses to contact them regarding employee layoffs as soon as possible. They will work with you to schedule an on-site presentation for your employees about job search, job training, academic and career assessment, career planning, and other services available at EASTBAY Works One Stop Career Centers. Information about obtaining unemployment insurance and other organizations and agencies that can help workers smoothly transition back into the workforce is also provided.

The resources provided through the Rapid Response program assist businesses and dislocated workers during a critical time. Contact your Rapid Response representative, Susie O'Bryant at 671-4542 or Sobryant@ehsd.cccounty.us for details. Additional information about EASTBAY Works and its partners can be found at www.eastbayworks.com. ♣



World famous cycling coach comes to Pleasant Hill



As students in the John F. Kennedy University Sports Psychology master's degree program know, behind every great athlete is an even more driven coach.

Personal coach to cancer survivor and seven-time Tour de France Champion Lance Armstrong, **Chris Carmichael** will be honored November 14 with the prestigious Kennedy Laureate Award at a Gala dinner in the Blackhawk Auto Museum, Danville. He is being recognized for his far-reaching impact in the world of health, fitness, psychology and athleticism.

A private reception will give guests time to get to know Chris, who was inducted into the U.S Bicycling Hall of Fame in May 2003, and has been honored as the United States Olympic Committee's "Coach of the Year." For information, go to www.jfku.edu/laureate.

A **FREE** Fitness Expo will be held from 11am to 3pm that afternoon on the

Pleasant Hill campus. Local vendors will offer information on the latest products and services available for cycling, endurance sports, health and fitness. Ticketed "Conversations with Chris" are also being hosted on campus with

Chris sharing inspirational stories about guiding Lance through a successful return from retirement to the podium at the 2009 Tour de France. For tickets or to register as an Expo vendor, go to www.jfku.edu/carmichael.

That afternoon, there will be two opportunities to hear Chris talk. He will also be autographing copies of his latest book, *The Time Crunched Cyclist*. The cost for attending a session is \$20 for the general public and \$15 for JFKU alumni/staff/faculty/students. Discounts for groups of 10 or more are available.

Chris is the founder, CEO, and President of Carmichael Training Systems and personal coach to cancer survivor and seven-time Tour de France Champion Lance Armstrong. "I want everyone to have access to quality coaching and fitness tips," he explains.

"The world of Sports Psychology is a burgeoning field," comments Gail Solt,

who directs the master's program at JFKU. "Our students and graduates work with athletes from all different sports and from all different countries. It's not just about having physical talent; it's about being mentally ready to compete."

The Sport Psychology Program in the Graduate School of Professional Psychology at JFK University prepares students to pursue a career in this field with the following educational options:

- MA in Sport Psychology Program
- MA in Sport Psychology/Clinical PsyD Linked Program
- MA in Counseling Program with specialization in Sport Psychology
- Certificate in Exercise and Sport Performance
- Certificate in Sport Management

The JFKU Sport Psychology program provides academically rigorous training to help students become effective sport psychology practitioners. Experiential training is guided by theoretical models, research, ethical principles and how diversity impacts the field of sport psychology. ♣

A new look for DVC



Diablo Valley College recently unveiled new monument signs around campus. The sign featured here is at the main entrance to the campus on Golf Club Road.

Math Forum for parents

The Pleasant Hill Education/Schools Advisory Commission is planning a Math Forum for elementary and middle school parents that will be held on the evening of January 25, 2010, at Sequoia Middle School. **Save That Date!!** Phil Gonsalves, Math Specialist and Coordinator of Educational Services at the Alameda County Office of Education, is an experienced presenter who will share specific strategies, tips, and hints which parents can utilize at home to help their children be more successful with math.

Reservations will be taken in advance of this event. Further information will be posted in future issues of the Pleasant Hill Outlook, as well as communications from your child's school. For more information, contact Martin Nelis at mnelis@ci.pleasant-hill.ca.us or phone 671-5229. ♣

Hiking to end homelessness

The face of homelessness is changing in Contra Costa County with more children affected than ever before. In many ways it is becoming the new disease of America with families waking up homeless through no fault of their own—the loss of a job, a foreclosure, an illness, or the loss of savings. Everyone watches the news and sees the faces that look very much like you and I, and we all wish we could help. BUT YOU CAN!

Pleasant Hill residents Karen Leffler and Pam Appel invite you to “Come Hike With Us!” As volunteers and Hike Coordinators, they are spearheading a grassroots team fundraising adventure called HIKE FOR SHELTER—Conquer The Canyon®, to raise a critical \$200,000 for SHELTER, Inc. of Contra Costa County, a non-profit founded in 1986. SHELTER, Inc.’s mission is to prevent homelessness, promote self-sufficiency and provide affordable housing for low-income families and “at-risk” individuals.

Open to all levels of abilities from casual walkers to seasoned hikers, each hiker commits to raise a minimum of funds for SHELTER, Inc. and participate in a 16-week training program in preparation for a one-day guided hike in the Grand Canyon in May 2010. “Having been a hiker participant for another non-profit several times with Conquer The Canyon®, I know what an extraordinary experience this is,” said Karen Leffler. “To celebrate our fundraising success together as a team, knowing we have made a difference in the lives of thousands facing homelessness is truly rewarding.”

The reality is that over 15,000 individuals will experience homelessness in Contra Costa County this year with over 7000 homeless on any given night and many are children. Over half of the 5100 clients SHELTER, Inc. served last year were children. At this time of year as temperatures drop, the needs are rising with over 70% increase in calls in the last six months. Homelessness prevention is about \$900 per household. Once a family is homeless, it costs \$10,000-25,000 to connect the family to housing and services.

When asked what hiking had to do with preventing homelessness, Karen responded: “For me, HIKE stands for Hope, Inspiration, Knowledge and



Pam Appel and Karen Leffler at the Grand Canyon.



Empowerment. We bring hope to those facing homelessness. We are inspired by the success stories of SHELTER’s clients. We share knowledge and bring awareness to the needs in our own community. We become empowered to speak up for those in need and witness SHELTER clients become empowered so they are never homeless again.”

If you would like to be part of the HIKE FOR SHELTER Team, call Karen Leffler at 323-2996 or email hike@shelterincofcc.org or go to www.shelterincofcc.org/hike.htm. To donate, go to www.firstgiving.com/siccc.

There will be a “HIKE FOR SHELTER—Conquer The Canyon®” informational meeting on Tuesday, November 3 at 7pm in the Community Room at Pleasant Hill City Hall. ♣

'Tis the season for...
Crab Feeds!
 Support this great cause.



Sat • Feb 20, 2010
 Pleasant Hill Community Center • 320 Civic Dr

PH Police Department Law Enforcement Torch Run
 Pleasant Hill Police Association cordially invites you to their 3rd annual **CRAB FEED** Benefiting Special Olympics Northern California East Bay Region Athletes
 Door prizes, raffle, and auction

Special Olympics

DONATION \$40
 Door Prizes
 Raffle / Auction
 Seating is limited...
 advance tickets required

Sponsorship opportunities available

5:00pm door opens
6:30pm dinner

Dinner menu
 Crab, salad, bread, pasta, dessert, and coffee.
No Host beer, wine, soda, bottled water,
 Please—no outside alcohol

Buy your ticket NOW! Seating is limited. This event is selling out fast! Tickets must be obtained in advance by contacting Sgt Gary Brown 288-4619 or CSO Tom Mueller at 288-4600. No tickets will be sold at the door. Table reservations accepted for table of 8.

More improvements to the Instructional Garden

The Pleasant Hill Instructional Garden rang with the sounds of people and equipment in the month of September! Lots of progress occurred.

During the annual United Way's Week of Caring, over 40 Chevron volunteers provided sweat equity in almost 100 degree heat on Friday and Saturday, September 18 and 19. These groups expanded the dry creek bed system leading to a newly created bog and a revived wetland. They installed more of the irrigation system, built two bridges over the stream beds, and did a lot of needed maintenance—composting, weeding, cleaning paths, moving rock—and distributed several hundred pounds of mulch compost and soil.

On September 26, for Pleasant Hill's annual Community Service Day, 21 volunteers installed irrigation drip lines, composted, moved even more mulch, built seating in the shade, and cleared paths.

Michael Hildner, an Eagle Scout to-be, has received approval to create a U-shaped rock raised garden and hopes to complete it prior to the Grand Opening of the garden on Sunday, October 25.



The Garden group was pleased to receive a \$500 contribution from Don Wilson, associated with RE/MAX Accord. Don had been instrumental in the garden from its inception, and he has committed to funding it with every Pleasant Hill house he sells. This money went directly into badly needed irrigation supplies.

Irrigation has been the word this season. Low moisture plants require watering for the first two years. After being established, they can receive much less. Volunteers have struggled to water the area with hoses—a difficult job with various environments needing differing amounts of

water. With the irrigation system “up and running,” the garden can make the best use of the recycled water supplied by Central Contra Costa Sanitary District.

You can contribute to even more progress! For a map or upcoming garden work party dates and more information go to <http://phig.webs.com>. Contact us at phecgarden@prodigy.net or 937-1530 to learn more how you can help. The address is 1 Santa Barbara Road, at Pleasant Hill Education Center, across from Pleasant Oaks Park. All contributions are tax deductible under their 501(c)(3) status. ♣



More than 50 people participated in a walk between City Hall and the Irvin Deutscher Family YMCA as part of the YMCA's celebration of America on the Move. This included a week-long series of programs designed to promote health and fitness.

Children's Programs

- ▶ **Celebrate America Recycles Day!** Tuesday, November 10 at 7pm. We will create masterpieces from recycled materials. We will have supplies or you can bring your own. Making stuff out of stuff keeps that stuff out of our landfill! Every little bit helps! For all ages.
- ▶ **The Great Paperback Exchange.** Hey kids, are your shelves filled with paperback books you've already read? Want something new to read? Join The Great Paperback Exchange for all kids up to 5th grade. Join in by bringing your gently used paperbacks to the Pleasant Hill Library during library open hours, Tuesday, December 1–Friday, December 4, and get an exchange ticket for each book. Then on Saturday, December 5, bring in your tickets and “shop” for new-to-you books! You will get something new to read AND you will be helping by Reducing Waste for a Greener Pleasant Hill. Remember—reuse is one of the easiest ways that you can help save our city and our planet!
- ▶ **It's Holiday Sing-Along Time at the Pleasant Hill Library!** No talent required! For ALL ages! Kick off the holiday season by joining us on Tuesday, December 1, 7pm. We'll hand out lyrics to help you sing-along to some classic holiday songs. “Mature” crooners and young chirpers and everything in-between welcome! Don't miss the fun!

Practical Business Management Training

- ▶ **Simple Steps to Sales Success.** The first sales call is a terrifying and stressful event for the agent and prospect alike. Getting the appointment or the phone conversation started is difficult, even for the novice. Once you do a few, everything will be fine, so what's the problem? How to do the very first one—and then doing the next one. Learn how to prepare, what to wear, and what to do. Saturday, November 21, 10am to 12pm, Contra Costa Co. Library Administration Bldg., 75 Santa Barbara Rd., Pleasant Hill. Presenter: George Holmes, Instructor, Contra Costa Small Business Development Center

Self-register for each free session at: cclib.org/programs/

For event type enter: business

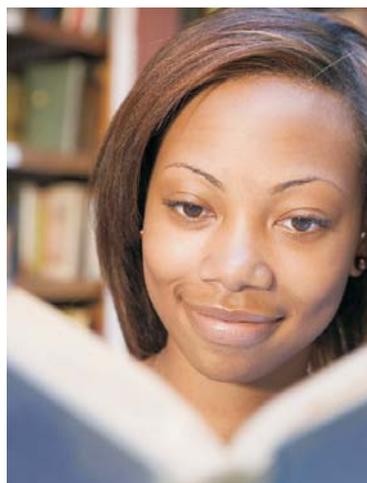
(e-mail address not required but provides confirmation)

Project Second Chance—Adults learn to read free!

Do you know any adults who struggle with reading, writing and spelling? If so, please let them know about Project Second Chance (PSC), the Contra Costa County library's adult literacy program.

PSC offers free, confidential, one-on-one basic literacy instruction. Half of PSC's students were born and educated in the United States, but never learned to read or write at the level they wish. For the other half, while they speak English, it is not their native language.

Tutoring is done by trained community volunteers who meet with their students twice a week, providing customized lessons. Since PSC began in 1984, the program has helped more than 4,300 adults improve their reading and writing skills!



The Pleasant Hill Library, 1750 Oak Park Blvd. Pleasant Hill, CA 94523

For more information about programs at the Pleasant Hill Library, please call the library at 646-6434 during open hours on Tuesday 1–8, Wednesday and Thursday 11–6; or Friday and Saturday 10–5; or visit the library online at cclib.org.

The Pleasant Hill Library will be closed for holidays and furloughs until June 2010, as follows....

November 2009

- Wednesday, November 11
All libraries closed (holiday)
- Wednesday, November 25
All libraries closed (furlough)
- Thursday, November 26
All libraries closed (holiday)
- Wednesday, December 23
All libraries closed (furlough)

December 2009

- Thursday, December 24
All libraries closed (holiday)
- Friday, December 25
All libraries closed (holiday)
- Saturday, December 26
All libraries closed (holiday)
- Thursday, December 31
All libraries closed (furlough)

January–May 2010

- Friday, January 1
All libraries closed (holiday)
- Saturday, January 2
All libraries closed (holiday)
- Monday, January 18
All libraries closed (holiday)
- Friday, February 12
All libraries closed (furlough)
- Saturday, February 13
All libraries closed (furlough)
- Sunday, February 14
All libraries closed
- Monday, February 15
All libraries closed (holiday)
- Wednesday, March 31
All libraries closed (furlough)
- Monday, May 31
All libraries closed (holiday)

Busy times at the Pleasant Hill Senior Center

★ "Get to Know Your Cell Phone"

Do you own a cell phone? Having trouble checking your voicemail, programming numbers or changing your ringtones? Teens from PHRPD's Teen Council are at your service! Register for a 20 minute one-on-one appointment to have your cell phone demystified and become the useful tool it's meant to be! Donations will be accepted and go toward supporting Teen Center Programs.

November 23

- ❑ Monday 10am–12pm, sign up for a 30-minute appointment slot
- ❑ Fee: FREE—Donations accepted
- ❑ Senior Center: 233 Gregory Lane, Bldg 3

★ Holiday Boutique

Get an early start on your holiday shopping! Visit our Holiday Boutique and choose from a huge selection of handmade items. Baby items, quilts, scarves, jewelry, and much more! Quality made items at affordable prices. After visiting the boutique, shop our plant sale, where all proceeds go towards the CC Café. Hot apple turnovers, sandwiches and coffee will be for sale.

November 14

- ❑ Saturday, 9am–4pm
- ❑ Senior Center: 233 Gregory Lane
- ❑ FREE Admission

★ Bunco

Potluck at 4pm, Bunco begins at 5pm. Fun and friendly atmosphere where no prior knowledge of the game is necessary! Buy your ticket at the Senior Center!

December 13

- ❑ Sunday, 4pm–7pm
- ❑ Senior Ctr.: 233 Gregory Lane, Bldg 2
- ❑ Tickets: \$4 plus bring potluck item to feed four people.

★ Taste of the Vine

Relax from your week and casually sip on a glass of wine with friends. There will be a variety of red and white wines for you to select, plus light hors d'oeuvres will be served. Non-alcoholic beverages available. Sponsored by The Chateaus of Pleasant Hill

December 4

- ❑ Friday, 4 pm–6pm
- ❑ Senior Center: 233 Gregory Lane
- ❑ \$6 (includes 2 tasting tickets)



★ Pancake Breakfast

Their monthly pancake breakfast now features French Toast! Enjoy a bottomless plate of either one with eggs, sausage, and orange juice.

November 1 and December 6

- ❑ 1st Sunday of every month, 9am–11am
- ❑ Senior Center: 233 Gregory Lane, Bldg 2
- ❑ \$3.50 ages 11 and up / \$2.50 ages 5 to 10 / FREE ages 4 & under

23rd Annual Hospice of the East Bay Tree of Lights

Hospice of the East Bay invites the public to participate in its 23rd annual Tree of Lights ceremony for residents of Pleasant Hill on Saturday, December 12, 5:30pm, at Gregory Lane near Cleveland Road.

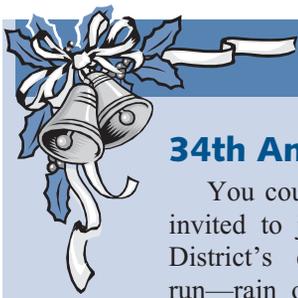
The celebration will be held to honor or remember beloved friends or family members in the community. Please join us to enjoy music, poetry, talks by local

dignitaries and the special moment when the trees light up. A reception with coffee, hot chocolate and cookies will immediately follow the ceremony in the large community room at City Hall.

A suggested donation of \$20 per light can be made by sending a tax-deductible check to Hospice Foundation of the East Bay at 3470 Buskirk Avenue, Pleasant Hill, CA 94523. Credit card donations may be made by calling Hospice of the East Bay at 887-5678.

Proceeds from Tree of Lights ceremonies benefit the patients and families in the care of Hospice of the East Bay.

Established in 1977, Hospice of the East Bay is a not-for-profit agency that helps people cope with life-limiting illnesses by providing medical, emotional, spiritual, and practical support for patients and families, regardless of their ability to pay. To learn more, or to make a donation of time or money, please contact 887-5678, or visit www.hospiceeastbay.org. ♣



'tis the season...for holiday fun and frolic...

34th Annual Turkey Trot

You could win a turkey! Experienced joggers are invited to join in Pleasant Hill Recreation & Park District's challenging Turkey Trot, an 8.4-mile run—rain or shine up and down the hilly trails at Briones Regional Park on Sunday, November 22.

Register at the Bear Creek entrance beginning at 7:30am for \$25, or in advance for just \$20 (pre-register by November 17, and get a free t-shirt). The race starts at 9am. Each division winner will receive a turkey; and medals will be given to the 1st, 2nd, and 3rd finisher in each division.

For a registration form, visit www.pleasanthillrecsports.com, or drop by the Pleasant Hill Recreation & Park District Office at 147 Gregory Lane.

It's party time!

Choose your favorite beat and join the party at the Pleasant Hill Community Center!

- **December 2**, Dance Like the stars annual **Noël Dance Party** welcomes former students and everyone who just likes to dance. Lots of great dance music with a dance lesson included!. \$10/couple, \$6 singles, 7:30–9:30pm.
- **December 16**, follow the hypnotic Latin rhythms to the **Zumba Party**. Don't know it? No worries. Workshop included. Bring a packaged snack to share. \$5/ person, 5:30–7:30pm.
- **December 21**, happy holiday party time with the **Salsa Boot Campers**. Take the challenge, work hard on your Salsa dance skills, then dance for pure pleasure during the last 45 minutes! Bring a packaged snack to share. \$10 per person, 7:30–9:45pm.

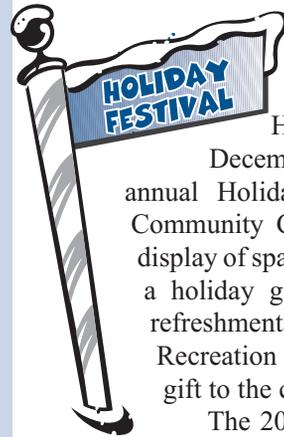
New Spotlight focuses on fitness

Watch for it! The new Spare Time Spotlight from Pleasant Hill Recreation & Park District arrives in the mail in mid-November. Look for a catalog packed with activities and classes with a focus on fitness! Enjoy your holiday treats, but stay active! Plan ahead and take on the holiday season and year 2010 with Pleasant Hill Recreation & Park District and you'll look and feel your best!



Breakfast with Santa

The jolly one himself has scheduled a break from his busy holiday work to spend a little time with you and your child. Don't miss this morning of holiday cheer and live entertainment. Sit down to a festive breakfast of pancakes, eggs, sausage, and more. This year the event will be held at the Pleasant Hill Senior Center, 233 Gregory Lane. Saturday, December 19, 8:30–10am; and 10:30am–noon. Be sure to pre-register by December 11. Admission \$7/adult and \$6/child. Call 676-5200. ♣



Holiday Festival

The Holiday Season in Pleasant Hill starts at 5pm on Wednesday December 9—and you're invited! The annual Holiday Festival at the Pleasant Hill Community Center is a free event featuring a display of sparkling lights, Santa and Mrs. Claus, a holiday gift fair, choirs, musicians, crafts, refreshments, and more! It's Pleasant Hill Recreation & Park District's annual thank-you gift to the community.

The 2009 Holiday Festival: Pleasant Hill Community Center, 320 Civic Drive, Wednesday, December 9, from 5 to 9pm. No admission charge. For more information or for sponsorship opportunities, contact Pleasant Hill Recreation & Park District Community Center, 676-5200; the District Office, 682-0896; or www.pleasanthillrec.com.

Support the Dolphins in December

If you love the Pleasant Hill Dolphins Swim Team, buy a beautiful tree at the Winslow Center parking lot on the corner of Pleasant Hill Road and Taylor Boulevard. This is the place to find outstanding trees at great prices! The sale begins the Friday after Thanksgiving. Proceeds from the tree sale benefit the Dolphins Swim Team. Go, Dolphins!



PHBA 2010 Spring Season Baseball and Softball signups!

Boys 5-16 years old
Girls 5-17 years old

1st child—\$160
2nd child—\$140
3rd child & more—\$100

Register online at www.phba.org

Mandatory walk-through in person registration at:
PHBA Baseball complex, 2 Santa Barbara Rd
(at Pleasant Oak Park)
Nov 7, Nov 21, Dec 5 at 10am-2pm
Bring 3 copies of online registration form
and a copy of birth certificate.

What else is happening in the community?

Don't miss "The Bee"!

All children in Grades K through 5 are invited to participate in the Foundation for Pleasant Hill Education's (FPHE) annual spelling bee on December 12. Children from communities in and outside of Pleasant Hill are welcome to participate.

Saturday, December 12

9:00am-5:00pm

Pleasant Hill City Hall

100 Gregory Lane

This is a merriment event that gives students a positive experience in an environment that allows them to display the results of their hard work in school. Students will be asked to spell grade appropriate words in a group setting. All grades will compete independently, except for Grades 4 and 5 who will compete together. Participants will receive a certificate and a small gift. Cash prizes will be awarded to the top three spellers in each grade.

The event's schedule is as follows:

- Kindergarten 9:30am–10:30am (check-in 9:00am)
- 1st Grade 11:00am–12:00pm (check-in 10:30am)
- 2nd Grade 12:30pm–1:30pm (check-in 12:00pm)
- 3rd Grade 2:00pm–3:00pm (check-in 1:30pm)
- 4th-5th Grade 3:30pm–4:30pm (check-in 3:00pm)

Registration is \$5.00 per entry.

To register:

- Call Kaplan Educational Centers at 676-8921
- Visit Kaplan at 35B Crescent Drive, Pleasant Hill, or
- Visit www.fphe.org to print a registration form. Mail registration forms and payment to FPHE, P.O. Box 23851, Pleasant Hill, CA 94523.

Word lists are available on www.fphe.org.

Proceeds from The Bee go to FPHE to benefit Pleasant Hill public schools. The Bee is co-sponsored by Kaplan Tutoring



and the Pleasant Hill Education/Schools Advisory Commission.

FPHE is a volunteer-led, 501(c)(3) non-profit organization committed to providing financial support to all 11 public schools in Pleasant Hill. FPHE strives to create a quality educational experience that prepares students to compete and thrive both in and out of the classroom. During the 2008-2009 school year, FPHE awarded over \$14,000 in grant funds to Pleasant Hill public schools. Through grants, FPHE provides teachers and staff with resources to keep schools competitive, continue programs at risk of being cut, and add programs to enhance current curriculum. The Foundation functions independently of the Mt. Diablo Unified School District and the City of Pleasant Hill. ♣

Our rockin' community! Events for November and December 2009

Date	Event	Location	Organization	Contact
Nov 1	Pancake Breakfast	PH Senior Center	PH Senior Center	798-8788
Nov 7, 21	PHBA Sign Up	PHBA Baseball Complex	PHBA	www.phba.org
Nov 10	Celebrate America Recycles Day	PH Library	PH Library	646-6434
Nov 14	Holiday Boutique	PH Senior Center	PH Senior Center	798-8788
Nov 18	Community Awards Night	PH Comm Center	PH Chamber of Commerce	687-0700
Nov 19	Light Up The Night	Pleasant Hill Downtown	City of Pleasant Hill	671-5229
Nov 22	Turkey Trot	Briones Park	PH Rec & Park District	676-5200
Nov 23	Get to Know Your Cell Phone	PH Senior Center	PH Senior Center	798-8788
Dec 1-4	Great Paperback Exchange	PH Library	PH Library	646-6434
Dec 1	Holiday Sing-Along	PH Library	PH Library	646-6434
Dec 2	Noel Dance Party	PH Comm Center	PH Rec & Park District	676-5200
Dec 4	Taste of the Vine	PH Senior Center	PH Senior Center	798-8788
Dec 6	Pancake Breakfast	PH Senior Center	PH Senior Center	798-8788
Dec 9	Holiday Festival	PH Comm Center	PH Rec & Park District	676-5200
Dec 11	Breakfast with Santa	PH Comm Center	PH Rec & Park District	676-5200
Dec 12	Hospice Tree of Lights	PH Park & City Hall	East Bay Hospice	887-5678
Dec 12	The Spelling Bee	PH City Hall	Foundation for PH Education	676-8921
Dec 13	Bunco	PH Senior Center	PH Senior Center	798-8788
Dec 16	Zumba Party	PH Comm Center	PH Rec & Park District	676-5200
Dec 21	Salsa Boot Campers Holiday Party	PH Comm Center	PH Rec & Park District	676-5200

Economic Development/Business News in Pleasant Hill welcomes new businesses...

The City of Pleasant Hill is committed to promoting and supporting the business community within the City. The economic vitality of Pleasant Hill is dependent on a strong business sector and the City plays an important role in making this happen. To find out more about Economic Development efforts in Pleasant Hill or for additional information on locating or expanding your business operations in the city, please contact Kelly Calhoun at 671-5213.



New businesses August 2009

Cybercopy (Full Service Copy Center)
1631 Contra Costa Blvd., 925-688-2326

Dr. Rosalia Mariz (Nutrition/
Biofeed Back Stress Reduction)
1610 Oak Park Blvd., #2, 925-943-2222

Gabriel Marroni (Massage Therapy)
395 Civic Dr., "C", 925-726-0300

IDrive Auto Group, LLC
(Retail Auto Sales)
3333 Vincent Rd., #213, 925-577-1237

Inn Room Video, Inc.
367 Civic Dr., #10, 925-933-9900

John A. Dana, M.D. (Medical Practice,
Physical Medicine/Rehab)
3480 Buskirk Ave., #145, 925-906-0400

Juanita Saragoza, LCSW
(Psychotherapy)
140 Mayhew Way, #301, 925-768-3114

Justin Liu, M.D. (Outpatient Physical
Medicine/Rehab)
3480 Buskirk Ave., #145, 925-906-0400

Mangrum Studios (Art Photo Studio)
2255 Morello Ave., #217, 925-287-0158

Moore Home Group, Inc.
(Structural Pest Control)
199 Mayhew Way, "G", 925-941-6437

Ontrac Computers
(Computer Sales & Service)
230 Golf Club Rd., 925-308-7694

Pathway Hypnotherapy
(Hypnotherapy-Weight Loss/Smoking)
395 Civic Dr., "C", 925-368-8398

Pleasant Day Spa (Massage)
1885 Contra Costa Blvd., 415-516-9069

Right At Home
(Non-Medical Care in Private Homes)
1800 Oak Park Blvd. "D", 925-256-4663

Yin Kong (Massage Therapy)
1885 Contra Costa Blvd., 415-516-3069

Interpro, Inc. (Management Consulting)
925-906-0600

Joanne C. Finn, MA, LEP
(Psycho Education Services)
925-708-1604

Keeton Enterprises (Customer Service/
Property & Homeowners Assoc)
925-997-9353

Larry B. Goldstein
(Management Consultant)
415-608-0556

Prime Lighter (Internet Sales-
Lighters & Accessories), 415-738-0679

Zotti Pool Service
(Swimming Pool Cleaning Service)
925-935-7579

New businesses September 2009

Alice's Montessori Learning
(Montessori Preschool/Daycare)
105 Astrid Drive
925-947-0606

Ellia Fashion (Home Made Jewelry
& Clothing (DVC only)
321 Golf Club Rd., 510-922-9958

Golden State Material, Inc.
(Concrete Supply)
164 Belle Ave., 925-681-5834

Martin Family Chiropractic Center
2350 Monument Blvd., "C", 925-676-8200

Styles For Less (Women's Clothing)
55 Crescent Dr., #10, 925-687-7805

Choo Choo Lulu (Design Travel Bags)
925-963-1801

GRN Enterprises (Contractor)
925-324-6918

J'Adore La Maison
(Interior Styling & Staging Homes)
925-286-7226

JD's Junk Drawer (Retail Sales-EBAY)
925-798-2286

Wave Array Music
(Online Merchandise Sales)
925-451-3883



Prepare to renew business licenses for 2010

It's almost time for business

owners in Pleasant Hill to be on the lookout for business license renewal notices. The notices will be mailed in mid-December to the mailing address on file. If your business mailing address has changed since last December, notify the City's Business License Division at

671-5234 as soon as possible to update your records and avoid having to re-send returned mail to you. This will allow business owners the full grace period ending **January 31, 2010**.

You should also notify the Business License Division if you are no longer in business, have sold, closed or moved out of the City. A brief note explaining the situation, signed and dated, and sent to

City of Pleasant Hill, Business License Division, 100 Gregory Lane, Pleasant Hill, CA 94523 or email to Lrodriguez@ci.pleasant-hill.ca.us

If you are in business or own **rental property** but are not yet licensed, call the City's Business License Division at 671-5234 to have the appropriate forms sent to you or to answer any of your questions.

City Meetings

NOVEMBER

WHEN	WHAT	WHERE
Mon 2 7:30pm	City Council-Redevelopment Agency	Council Chambers
Wed 4 9:00am	Commission on Aging	City Hall Small Community Room
Wed 4 6:30pm	Civic Action Commission	City Hall Small Community Room
Thu 5 5:00pm	Architectural Review Commission	City Hall Small Community Room
Tue 10 6:00pm	Traffic Safety Commission	City Hall Community Room
Tue 10 7:30pm	Planning Commission (Public Hearing)	Council Chambers
Thu 12 5:00pm	Zoning Administrator (Public Hearing)	Planning/Public Works Conference Room
Mon 16 7:30pm	City Council-Redevelopment Agency	Council Chambers
Wed 25 7:00pm	Education/Schools Advisory Commission	Sequoia Middle School
Thu 19 5:00pm	Architectural Review Commission	City Hall Small Community Room
Tue 24 7:30pm	Planning Commission (Public Hearing)	Council Chambers
Thu 26	Thanksgiving Holiday—City offices closed	
Fri 27	Thanksgiving Holiday—City offices closed	

DECEMBER

WHEN	WHAT	WHERE
Wed 2 9:00am	Commission on Aging	City Hall Small Community Room
Wed 2 6:30pm	Civic Action Commission	City Hall Small Community Room
Thu 3 5:00pm	Architectural Review Commission	City Hall Small Community Room
Thu 3 7:00pm	Redevelopment Advisory Commission	City Hall Large Community Room
Mon 7 7:30pm	City Council-Redevelopment Agency	Council Chambers
Tue 8 6:00pm	Traffic Safety Commission	City Hall Community Room
Tue 8 7:30pm	Planning Commission (Public Hearing)	Council Chambers
Thu 10 5:00pm	Zoning Administrator (Public Hearing)	Planning/Public Works Conference Room
Mon 21 7:30pm	City Council-Redevelopment Agency	Council Chambers
Thu 24	Christmas Holiday—City offices closed	
Fri 25	Christmas Holiday—City offices closed	



CITY OF PLEASANT HILL

100 Gregory Lane
Pleasant Hill, CA 94523-3323
925-671-5270
www.ci.pleasant-hill.ca.us

CITY OFFICIALS

Mayor Michael G. Harris
Vice Mayor Karen S. Mitchoff

Councilmembers

David E. Durant
John Hanecak
Terri L. Williamson
City Manager June Catalano
City Clerk Marty McInturf
Treasurer Mark W. Celio

City Council meetings are broadcast on Comcast channel 26 on 1st and 3rd Wednesdays at 7:30pm.

Meetings are also available on the City website under "Council Webcast."

CITY HALL HOURS

Monday–Wednesday 8:30am–5:00 pm
Thursday 8:30am–6:00 pm
Friday 8:30am–1:00 pm



The City of Pleasant Hill newsletter is published bimonthly. Deadline for stories and story ideas for Jan/Feb is December 9. Ideas are always welcome. Local non-profit groups may submit articles to the Public Information Officer at 100 Gregory Lane, Pleasant Hill, CA 94523. For information, call Martin Nelis at 671-5229, fax to 680-0294, or email to mnelis@ci.pleasant-hill.ca.us.

PUBLISHED ON RECYCLED PAPER



Editor/Writer Martin Nelis, PIO
Design/misc photos Donaghu Graphic Designs

COVER: Lake at Award-winning City Hall

Important Phone Numbers

Police/Fire Emergency 911
Police (Business) 288-4600
Fire (Business) 930-5500
Public Services Center 671-4646
Chamber of Commerce 687-0700
Recreation & Parks 682-0896
PH Bayshore Disposal 685-4711
PG&E 800-743-5000
Senior Center 798-8788
Senior Van Service 671-5272



City of Pleasant Hill
100 Gregory Lane
Pleasant Hill, CA 94523-3323
www.ci.pleasant-hill.ca.us

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Community Awards Night on November 18!



The 39th Annual Community Awards Night takes place on Wednesday, November 18 at the Pleasant Hill Community Center. The event honors those businesses, community leaders, and teachers who have contributed in many different ways to making Pleasant Hill a better place for all who live and work in this city.

Awards include Citizen of the Year, Educator of the Year, Teen of the Year, Businessperson of the Year, Community Plus Award, and for the first time, a Green Award for a business, person or organization that has demonstrated outstanding leadership in promoting sustainability and environmental programs.

The Community Plus Award is given to an employee of one of the sponsors of the event who has demonstrated considerable community service for 5 or more years. The event sponsors are the Chamber of Commerce, City of Pleasant Hill, and the PH Recreation & Park District.

The nominees for the Citizen of the Year award must be at least a 5-year resident of Pleasant Hill and have a broad-based record of assisting and volunteering with civic and community groups throughout the city. Nomination forms are available at www.ci.pleasant-hill.ca.us or by emailing the Chamber at charley@pleasanthillchamber.com.

The Awards Night begins at 5:30pm and dinner will be served by Outback Steakhouse. The cost is \$35 per person and reservations can be made by calling the Chamber of Commerce at 687-0700. ♣

Thank you, everyone!

Once again the business community, City, and Downtown showed the effectiveness of working together at the recent, *very successful*, Art, Jazz & Wine Fest. This 7th annual event featured its usual great music, arts & crafts, wine and beer. And this year included fun cooking demonstrations and kids fun zone. Thank you, everyone!





CITY AT WORK

FALL 2009



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

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 link to access the staff directory.

Maintenance Division

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

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

DRIVER AND PEDESTRIAN RESPONSIBILITIES AT CROSSWALKS

When it comes down to pedestrian crosswalk safety, both the drivers and pedestrians have their fair share of responsibilities to ensure that the proper right-of-way was observed. According to the California Vehicle Code, the drivers have the responsibility of yielding the right-of-way to a pedestrian who is crossing within a marked pedestrian crosswalk, but it is the pedestrian's responsibility to use due care and wait for the adequate gap in traffic to step into a crosswalk. A moving vehicle is not required to stop for a pedestrian who is simply waiting on the side of a crosswalk (but not crossing).

Some common practices for drivers

- Respect the right-of-way of pedestrians. Always stop for any pedestrian crossing at corners or other crosswalks, even if the crosswalk is mid-block and at corners with or without traffic signals.
- Do not pass a car from behind that has stopped at a crosswalk. A pedestrian who was blocked by the stopped car may be crossing.
- Do not stop in a crosswalk, for it may place pedestrians at greater risk.
- If a pedestrian makes eye contact with you, he or she may be ready to cross the street. Yield to the pedestrian.

- Allow older pedestrians more time to cross the street.
- Drive within the posted speed limit.

Some common practices for pedestrians

Practice defensive walking and be aware of where others are going. Do NOT assume that you have the right-of-way.

Making eye contact with an on-coming driver does NOT mean that the driver will see you or yield the right-of-way. Drivers may be distracted or temporarily blinded by sun glare or light reflection.

- Be aware that hybrid and electric vehicles are virtually silent when running on electric power and may not be heard when approaching.
- Yield the right-of-way to vehicles when crossing at intersections where crosswalks are not marked.
- Do NOT "jaywalk" across a street between intersections, where no crosswalks are provided.
- Always obey traffic signals. When a signal first changes to green or "WALK" for you, look left, right, and then left again before crossing to make sure that there are no vehicles making a right turn.

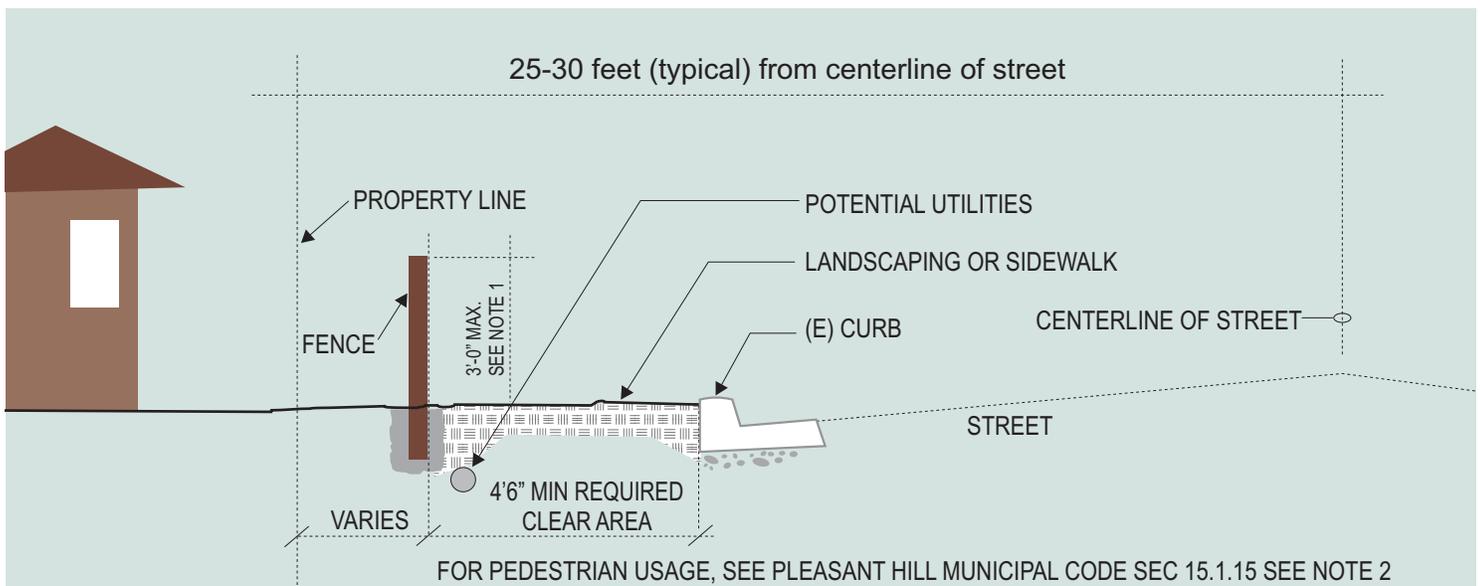
As a resident of Pleasant Hill, it is very important that you determine your property limits before you undertake your next home improvement project. As we have suggested, a number of residents have called the Engineering Division before undertaking costly projects in front of, or along side, their fronting property.

As you may be aware, the City's Right-of-Way (which includes all land which by deed, conveyance, agreement, easement, dedication, usage is reserved for or dedicated to the use of the general public for road or highway purposes) is typically 50 feet to 60 feet in width or 25 to 30 feet from the road centerline on most residential streets. The City reserves this area for future improvement projects such as drainage, sidewalks, roadway widening, utility improvements, among others. If you plan to encroach on the Right-of-Way, meaning going on, over, or under, or using a right-of-way in a manner which prevents, obstructs, or interferes with the normal use of that way, you will first need to contact the Engineering Division to determine if a permit will be granted. Typical encroachments include:

1. Excavating or disturbing the rights-of-way
2. Erecting a fence of any type, material, and height within the right-of-way
3. Constructing a pathway, sidewalk, or driveway
4. Constructing on, over, under, or within the right-of-way a culvert or other surface drainage or subsurface drainage facility

5. Constructing a pond or water structure
6. Placing a sewer pipeline, water lateral, pipe, conduit, or cable
7. Constructing a structure, retaining wall, or similar encroachment
8. Placing or leaving any obstruction or impediment, including debris boxes or storage moving bins on a right-of-way

Remember, if you are building within 15 feet of the roadway shoulder or 10 feet behind a concrete curb and gutter or 5 feet behind the sidewalk, you are likely within the City's Right-of-Way and encroaching, which will require a permit before you commence any work. The Engineering Division will schedule a site visit with you to discuss your future project—please give us a call at **671-5264** to set up an appointment. Please remember that if you build without a permit you may be subject to the removal of the encroachment at your own cost.



Note 1. Any permanent fence (3 feet maximum) or structure within the City's Right of Way requires, if allowed, an Encroachment Permit from the Engineering Division. If a permit is granted, the City will request that the property owner remove the encroachment at property owner's expense, if the Right of Way is needed in the future for public improvements.

CITY CONSTRUCTION PROJECTS

For additional information about the following construction projects please visit the City's web site (www.ci.pleasant-hill.ca.us/projects) or contact the Engineering Division at 671-5264.

DESIGN/PLANNED

Buskirk Avenue Improvements Project Phase II

The Buskirk Avenue Improvement Phase II Project will provide for street widening improvements consistent with the Contra Costa Center Specific Plan. The project will widen the portion of Buskirk Avenue adjacent to the Crossroads Shopping Center from two to four lanes and complement Phase I improvements (Monument Boulevard to 300 feet south of Lamkin Lane) completed in the winter of 2005.

The improvements will consist of providing additional travel lanes, improving roadway alignment, and providing new pedestrian and bicycle facilities. The project will realign the roadway to provide four continuous lanes from Monument Boulevard to Hookston Road (through Elmira Road) then extending west to Buskirk Avenue thereby eliminating the current "S" curve. This will accommodate the future growth and expansion of the Crossroads Shopping Center. The proposed widening project will increase capacity, upgrade signal operations, and improve circulation in the area.

The estimated \$11 million Buskirk Avenue Improvement Project will be funded by Measure J, Traffic Mitigation Funds, and Redevelopment Funds. Construction is anticipated in the spring of 2011. Engineering design plans are currently underway.

Police Department Phase II Dispatch

Police facilities front office/dispatch upgrades repairs

Staff is finalizing the design plans to upgrade the lobby and dispatch areas of the police facility. The police facility was constructed in 1981; the current space for the dispatch center and staff configuration are not designed to accommodate the use of modern technology and computer equipment for our dispatch personnel. The new improvements will redistribute, increase, and enhance the current office space to meet the operational, functional, and ergonomic needs of the Police Department emergency response staff. Construction is anticipated to begin the spring of 2010.

UNDERWAY

Contra Costa Boulevard Pavement Rehabilitation— 2nd Avenue south to Golf Club Road.

The City is resurfacing Contra Costa Boulevard (CCB) between 2nd Avenue South and I-680 Freeway off-ramp (near the Target Store entrance). The project was awarded \$842,000 in American Recovery & Reinvestment Act (ARRA) grant monies as part of a Federal Stimulus Package. Construction work began in August. The major paving work is scheduled (weather and temperature permitting) to take place during the nighttime hours in order to minimize the impact to motorists and businesses. The construction scope include pavement grinding, pavement failure repairs, sidewalk and concrete repairs, new traffic striping, center median work, handicap accessible curb ramps, and new pavement overlay and incidentals. Also included in this project was some limited concrete sidewalk and handicap accessible curb ramps work along CCB between Cottonwood Drive and Chilpancingo Parkway. The project is anticipated to be completed in early November 2009



—continued on page 4



Citywide traffic speed survey update

The City is in the process of updating its citywide speed survey per the requirements of the California State Vehicle Code and the Federal Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices (MUTCD) for the proper setting of posted speed limits. Per Federal and State requirements, citywide speed surveys are required to be updated every 7 to 10 years, and speed limits are required to be set within 5 mph of the 85th percentile speed determined as part of an engineering and traffic speed survey. Local agencies are prohibited from issuing any speed related citations should there be any speed limits that are "artificially" reduced. The speed surveys are scheduled to be conducted in the month of November during non-holiday weeks, and the final speed limits are to be reviewed by the City's Traffic Safety Commission and adopted by City Council in December 2009.

COMPLETED

Curb ramp installation project

The City hired Cinray Construction to install 26 new curb ramps in the Strandwood School area. This project provided for the installation of new Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) curb ramps along the existing corridors in this neighborhood. High priority areas targeted for this project were routes to schools as well as sidewalks that did not have existing curb ramps. The new ramps will provide access to sidewalks for pedestrians with physical disabilities. The current standard requires new ramps to have a detectable warning surface mat on the ramp landing area that warns pedestrians with visual disabilities that they are about to enter a roadway with vehicular traffic. The project began in August 2009 and was completed in early October 2009

Contra Costa Boulevard sidewalk project (Ellinwood Drive to Taylor Boulevard)



The City has completed the installation of a new concrete sidewalk along the west side of Contra Costa Boulevard, between Taylor Boulevard and Ellinwood Drive. As part of the sidewalk project, the existing striped crosswalk at the intersection of Contra Costa Boulevard and Harriet Drive has also been removed. The purpose of the project is to provide a safer and ADA compliant pedestrian facility between the two signalized crossings at Taylor Boulevard and Ellinwood Drive and to eliminate the existing non-controlled crosswalk at Harriet Drive. New landscaping improvements were planted along the back of the new sidewalk section, and new wooden fencing was installed along the back of various adjacent residential properties. The project was funded by a Federal Highway Safety Improvement Program Grant secured by the City in 2007

Citywide pedestrian countdown signal module upgrade

The City has completed the installation of 78 new pedestrian countdown signal modules at over 21 city operated traffic signals. City staff had secured \$35,000 in State Office of Traffic Safety grant in 2008 to purchase and install the countdown modules, and the updated modules are designed to reduce confusion by giving pedestrians information about how much crossing time remains at the respective signal phase to cross the street. Studies have shown that countdown signal modules can help reduce the number of stragglers in the street when the signal changes, thus increasing the overall safety for pedestrians at signal controlled crosswalks.



2009 Street Resurfacing Project Phase I and Phase II

The City of Pleasant Hill resurfaced 28 residential streets and one collector street in the Sherman Acres and Gregory Gardens subdivisions this summer with a Rubberized Asphalt Concrete Cape (RAC) Seal (rubberized chip seal followed by a microsurfacing seal). Funded in part by a Grant from the California Integrated Waste Management Board (CIWMB), the Grant Program provides assistance to local governments to fund RAC chip seal projects and the opportunity to divert waste tires from landfill disposal. The 2009 Street Resurfacing Project utilized approximately 91,000 square yards of RAC chip seal, which recycled approximately 6,467 used rubber tires into the new roadway surface. As well as recycling used tires, the use of the RAC chip seal in lieu of conventional pavement materials eliminates the need for a more expensive resurfacing treatment, which allows the City to rehabilitate more streets.





PLANNED

Pleasant Hill Road minor subdivision

The City has approved a 3 lot minor subdivision located at 2191 Pleasant Hill Road. The project will include partial demolition of the existing home, minor grading, and construction of two new homes, a private driveway and new concrete curb, gutter and sidewalk along Pleasant Hill Road. In addition, the project will include new storm drain improvements that will treat and detain stormwater runoff before it enters the City's storm drain and creek system.

Diablo Valley College Transit Center

Contra Costa County Connection has been working with the City and Diablo Valley College (DVC) in the planning and design of the upcoming Diablo Valley College Transit Center project. The project will construct a new transit center at the north main DVC parking lot area, just south of the Old Quarry Road/Golf Club Road intersection. The new transit center will serve as a main transit hub for the area surrounding DVC and will provide a designated area for passenger pickup, drop-off, and bus turn around that is separate from the rest of the DVC vehicle traffic. New decorated bus shelters will also be constructed as part of the project. The project is tentatively scheduled for spring 2010 construction.

UNDERWAY

St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church

Expansion of the St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church, located at 1601 Mary Drive, began in the fall of 2009. This project includes construction of a new 5,950 square foot stand alone single-story multi-purpose facility, as well as various site improvements, such as landscaping and parking lot revisions. In addition, the church will also construct a new drainage system where the runoff will be routed through landscape areas before entering the underground pipe system. The runoff will then be stored in an oversized drain pipe and metered out so that it does not impact the flood capacity of the existing creek system. Construction is scheduled to be completed in summer 2010.

COMPLETED

Oak Park Christian Center

Expansion of the Oak Park Christian Center located at 2073 Oak Park Boulevard began in late 2008. The project includes construction of a 16,000 square foot sanctuary. Other site improvements include underground detention vaults that are designed to store additional stormwater runoff and miscellaneous landscape improvements. Off site improvements include the relocation of the crosswalk at Wendell Lane and construction of additional shared parking spaces on the adjacent school property. The new sanctuary is scheduled to be opened by early November 2009.

MAINTENANCE MATTERS

Recycled water coming to the Police Department facility for landscape use

City Maintenance staff has been meeting with Central Contra Costa Sanitary District (CCCSD) and the Contra Costa Water District (CCWD) to convert the landscaping at the Police Department facility (330 Civic Drive) from potable water (tap water) to recycled water (used water that has been reclaimed and cleaned). This process has taken several months to ensure that all regulatory requirements are met before the installation can be approved.

More than 10 years ago CCCSD began an ambitious project to supply recycled water to specific areas of Concord and Pleasant Hill to be used for irrigation, landscaping, and industrial purposes. In 1998, CCCSD expanded the recycled water distribution system into the Pleasant Hill community and added golf courses, parks, and city and college campuses to the growing list of recycled water customers. Currently the City uses recycled water in landscape medians on limited areas that include Contra Costa Boulevard, Golf Club Road, and Chilpancingo Parkway. This new expansion to the Police Department facility will take place in the next 90 days.

Currently the Police Department landscaping uses approximately 8,000 gallons per day during the hot summer months to water over ½ acre of landscape that includes numerous large shade and flowering trees, shrubs, groundcover, and turf area. When the irrigation system

is converted to recycled water in spring 2010, the savings (over \$4,000/year) will be approximately 30 percent from what is currently being spent on potable tap water. During current and future drought years the monetary savings will be significant due to the drought surcharges currently in effect.

Water is always in short supply in California. The need for water is only expected to grow. Using recycled water reduces the dependence on freshwater. Water recycling provides an additional viable source of water to meet our growing demands. By using recycled water for landscaping, we will continue to use a reliable, safe source of water for each appropriate use.



UTILITY CONSTRUCTION PROJECTS

UNDERWAY

Contra Costa Water District (CCWD)—Sherman Acres II Subdivision Main Replacement Projects

CCWD is scheduled to start construction in late November on the replacement of 6,000 feet of water mains and multiple water valves within the Sherman Acres II subdivision as part of a larger CCWD project. Other Pleasant Hill streets include Anelda Drive, Belle Court, Celia Drive, Dawn Drive, East Vivian Drive, Phylis Drive, and Marta Drive. The CCWD hired contractor will be installing the new 6-inch and 8-inch polyvinyl chloride (PVC) water pipes by open cut street trenching. Street restoration will include asphalt paving over the trench area, followed by slurry sealing over the roadway. Construction is anticipated to be completed by the summer of 2010. For additional information, please contact CCWD Public Affairs at 688-8109.

Central Contra Costa Sanitary District (CCCSD) Phase 1 Sewer Renovation Project

This project provides for the upgrade of sewer pipes at six sites within the City—Grayson Road, Greenwood Drive, Gregory Lane, Third Avenue South,; Trelany Road, and Vincent Road. In this first phase CCCSD will renovate 2,600 feet of 6 and 8-inch sewers using open cut, pipe-bursting, and directional drilling replacement methods. Construction began in mid-October and is likely to continue through spring of 2010. Motorists should expect some delays caused by traffic control and construction activities. Affected neighborhoods have been notified construction via mailings and project maps are available on CCCSD's website (www.centralsan.org/construction). For additional information contact CCCSD's Community Affairs Representative at 229-7200.



Work being done on the sewer pipe upgrade at Trelany Lane

COMPLETED

East Bay Municipal Utility District — Grayson Road, Sunset Road Tyler Terrace Projects

The East Bay Municipal Utility District (EBMUD) under the Infra Structural Renewal Program replaced 1,800 feet of water main lines at three locations this past spring: 1) Grayson Road between Tammy Lane and Heritage Hills Drive; 2) Sunset Road between Valley View Road and Strand Avenue and 3) Tyler Terrace tying into Slater Avenue- both private streets within Pleasant Hill..



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) (Martinez Police Dispatch)	(925) 372-3440
Pacific Gas & Electric Company (gas and electric emergency)	(800) 743-5000
AT&T (customer repair service)	(800) 310-2355