

Emerald Hills Homeowners Association, Inc.
PO Box 620449
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www.emeraldhills.org

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Emerald Hills Review

Emerald Hills Homeowners Association Newsletter

November 14, 2008



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Thanks to all our volunteers, sponsors, and participants!
The Emerald Hills Community Picnic was a resounding success because of you!



Emerald Hills Community Picnic A Resounding Success!

Thanks to *all* our volunteers, sponsors, and participants! The very first Association sponsored Emerald Hills Community Picnic was a resounding success because of *you!*

Those who attended the picnic on September 13, 2008, enjoyed an afternoon of summertime fun and a *wonderful* BBQ courtesy of the Emerald Market, which graciously donated all the food *and* cooked it to perfection.



We had games to entertain kids of all ages, including horse shoe contests, volleyball, golf, tug-of-war competitions, balloon tosses, and relay races of all kinds. Momo the Clown painted faces and made balloon sculptures for the children.



Thanks to our generous sponsors (please see page eight of this newsletter for a complete list), we were able to give away some terrific door prizes.

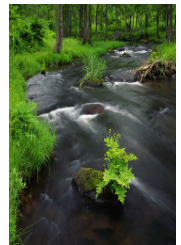
Most importantly, those who participated got a chance to meet the friends, neighbors, and families who make up our extraordinary community!



San Mateo County Watershed Protection Program An Update

On September 30, 2008, County staff presented an updated report with revised recommendations to the Environmental Quality Committee of the San Mateo County Board of Supervisors. Unfortunately, the recommendations were posted for community review only a few days before the meeting, so there was little time for the community at large to thoroughly review the report. Several community members did read the report, however, and commented that the language in the Statement of Purpose and Objectives did not adequately reflect the pledges made to homeowners and constituents at the earlier July 22, 2008 meeting.

Michael Mangini attended the September 30, 2008 meeting and presented the following proposed language changes to the report that would more accurately reflect those pledges:



Objectives:

- Use verifiable scientific research to identify and validate problems in each watershed.
- Develop enhancement objectives for each watershed, recognizing that each watershed may present unique management and protection challenges and opportunities.
- Ensure adequate opportunity for public review and comment during all phases of program development prior to Supervisorial approval or implementation.

Supervisors Rich Gordon and Jerry Hill agreed to postpone approval of the report and directed staff to study and incorporate the proposed language if at all possible. County staff was also directed to re-present the report at the next Committee Meeting to be held on November 18, 2008. The original report may be viewed at:

http://www.co.sanmateo.ca.us/bos.dir/BOSCommittees/FO/2008/FOSpecMtg_20080930.pdf

When Does the EHHA Board Meet?

The EHHA Board typically holds its monthly meetings on the second Wednesday of each month in the conference room (lower level) of the new Woodside Fire Station 19 at Jefferson Avenue and Wilmington Way. Meetings are open to the community, and we invite you to attend. The meeting schedule is available on our web site www.emeraldhills.org.

Emerald Hills Community Survey on Zoning and Design Review An Update

Results of the Emerald Lake Hills Zoning and Design Review Survey conducted by the San Mateo County Building and Planning Department in April 2008 have been tabulated, posted online at: http://www.sforoundtable.org/p&B/pb_elh_assessmnt.html and can be summarized as follows:

Response Rate: 18.8% (384 surveys returned out of 2043 mailed out)

Findings:

- 58% of survey respondents favor eliminating design review
- 61% of survey respondents favor modification of current zoning regulations
- 76% of survey respondents favor neighborhood notification of projects

After reviewing these results, the EHHA Board of Directors passed the following resolution for a policy proposal at their October 8, 2008 meeting to be presented to the Board of Supervisors and County Staff:

Given that the results of the San Mateo County 2008 Emerald Lake Hills Community Survey on Zoning and Design Review demonstrate a significant level of community interest in revising current zoning and design review regulations and procedures in Emerald Hills, the Board of Directors of the Emerald Hills Homeowners Association supports the recommendation that the San Mateo County Board of Supervisors form an Emerald Hills Zoning and Design Review Policy Committee to be composed of community members representing stakeholder positions on these issues for the purpose of:

- *Conducting a thorough review of the regulations and procedures currently in force*
- *Developing language to revise these regulations and procedures to address issues identified as significant areas of concern in the Survey*
- *Submitting the result of this community-based work to the Board of Supervisors for consideration and implementation*

In the Emerald Hills community, stakeholders include community volunteers representing the following interest groups:

- *Resident Homeowners*
- *Property Owners*
- *Rental Property Owners*

- *Realtors*
- *Structural Engineers*
- *Soils Engineers*
- *Arborists*
- *Architects*
- *Building Contractors*

The work of the Committee would be conducted within a 6-month period of time beginning in January 2009 and completed not later than July 2009, at which time a report on recommendations for revisions in Zoning and Design Review regulations and procedures in Emerald Hills would be submitted to the Board of Supervisors.

County Staff has offered to provide logistical support for the work of the Committee by securing facilitation services from the Peninsula Conflict Resolution Center. If the Board of Supervisors adopts our recommendation, the EHHA Board will solicit volunteers representing the above-listed interest groups to come together to resolve these issue of vital concern to the residents and property owners in Emerald Hills.

Bay Division Pipeline Reliability Upgrade Project Fact Sheet—Fall 2008

Courtesy of Christina Kerby, SFPUC



Background: The San Francisco Public Utilities Commission owns and operates the Hetch Hetchy Regional Water System, which delivers drinking water to 2.4 million Bay Area residents. The community of Emerald Hills receives 100% of its drinking water from Hetch Hetchy. The Bay Division Pipeline Reliability Upgrade is a project to improve this regional water system and ensure that water would continue to reach our customers should an earthquake occur.

The Bay Division Pipelines: Four large, underground Bay Division Pipelines (BDPLs) carry water from the Sierra Nevada Mountains and local reservoirs to two-thirds of the system's customers in the Peninsula and East Bay. Bay Division Pipelines 1 and 2, built in 1925 and 1936, travel across a northern alignment that passes underneath the San Francisco Bay near the Dumbarton Bridge. Pipelines 3 and 4, built in 1952 and 1973, travel south around the Bay and meet up with the 1 and 2 pipelines in Redwood City. These pipelines are in the vicinity of three major earthquake faults in the Bay Area, and are vulnerable to failure in the event of an earthquake. *(continued on page 4)*

A New, Stronger Pipeline: The Bay Division Pipeline Reliability Upgrade Project proposes to add one more pipeline, BDPL 5, to this system, alongside the existing BDPLs 1 and 2 which serve the Peninsula. BDPL 5 would consist of 9 miles of 5-foot diameter welded steel pipeline in the Peninsula, and 7 miles of 6-foot diameter pipeline in the East Bay. The project also includes a 5-mile tunnel underneath the San Francisco Bay between Menlo Park and Newark. The new pipeline would pass through the cities of Redwood City, Menlo Park, East Palo Alto, Fremont and Newark. The total budget for this pipeline project is \$263 million.

Construction in Emerald Hills—What to Expect: Construction would pass through SFPUC-owned Right of Way just north of Edgewood Road and head west toward Redwood City. Construction would cross several streets in Emerald Hills, including Edgewood, Cordilleras, Hillcrest, Oak Knoll, and Upland, and will cross over Cordilleras Creek in the same way as the two existing pipelines.

The pipeline work would cross Edgewood Road near Woodhue Court. SFPUC proposes to close Edgewood Road for 2-3 days (over a long weekend) to construct in this area. During this time, thru traffic would be detoured to surrounding streets. Local traffic (for example to Woodhue Court) would be unaffected. When construction occurs in streets other than Edgewood Rd, they would remain open to thru traffic during construction, but may be restricted to one lane. Streets and sidewalks would be restored to their original condition following construction.

Work would involve digging a 10-14 foot deep trench, installing a new 5 foot diameter steel pipeline, and filling in the trench. During non-work hours, the trench would be fenced off or covered with steel plates if within a roadway. At this time, we estimate that construction will take place

sometime during 2010 or 2011, but would only be in your neighborhood for a matter of weeks. Once SFPUC has obtained a contractor in early 2010, a more precise schedule will be made available to you.

During construction, residents can expect no change in water service. Neighbors will be notified well in advance of any construction activities or traffic impacts. The Project Team is working closely with San Mateo County parks, schools, fire departments, and other agencies to coordinate construction activities.

How will this Project Benefit My Community?

The Bay Division Pipeline Reliability Upgrade Project would provide a strong pipeline capable of withstanding an earthquake and ensure that water continues to flow to your community in the event of an emergency. It will also allow the SFPUC to more easily shut down the existing, older pipelines for inspection, maintenance and repair.

What's next? The San Francisco Planning Department is conducting an Environmental Review of this project. The Draft Environmental Impact Report should be available in winter 2008. The San Francisco Planning Department will hold hearings to receive public comment on the environmental review. Be sure to sign up on our mailing list to be provided with a notice of these hearings as soon as the information becomes available.

Questions? For more information, email Baydivision@sfgwater.org or call 1-800-571-6610.



The EHHA Online Discussion Forums Are Coming Back Online!



Great news! Starting January 2009, the EHHA will once again have an operating online discussion forum. Through online services provided by Big Tent (www.bigtent.com), our Association will also be able to process membership updates and manage email list-serves. We are making this switch to Big Tent to make sure we have sustainable technology supporting our Association now and in the future, and to have a platform for our online community. Big Tent has a very strict privacy policy and does not sell, rent or give user information to ANY third parties.

How it works: Association members will receive an email invitation from Big Tent some time in January. Simply follow the easy instructions in the invitation. If you have any questions about this switch, please contact Mike Sherman at mike.sherman@emeraldhills.org. For more information about Big Tent, go to www.bigtent.com.

Citizen Emergency Response and Preparedness Program (CERPP)

Woodside Fire Protection District



What is CERPP?

The Citizens Emergency Response and Preparedness Program or CERPP is a neighbor-to-neighbor self-help program for activation in the event of a major emergency. The Woodside Fire Protection District (WFPD) has been divided into 25 divisions and the divisions are, in turn, divided into neighborhood teams. CERPP's objective is to have everyone living in the WFPD be a member of a neighborhood team. In the event of any widespread disaster, such as a large earthquake, we are likely to be on our own for an extended period of time. In such circumstances these neighborhood teams will activate.

CERPP's goals are to:

1. Establish neighborhood teams that prepare for and respond to emergencies in their local area when the fire department is overtaxed.
2. Maintain a communications system so that neighborhoods can talk to one another and to the public safety agencies.
3. Maintain emergency containers with supplies to support established emergency shelters throughout the district.
4. Maintain safe havens for our animals.
5. Help citizens prepare for and respond to emergencies.

A training program provides classes for CERPP team members to learn about how to organize their neighborhood, lead a team in a disaster, and assist any injured people. You can refer to the CERPP training schedule to see their latest course offerings.

CERPP is supported in part by the WFPD, the towns of Woodside and Portola Valley, San Mateo County Sheriff's Office, and San Mateo County Office of Emergency Services. It is an authorized 501.C3, making it eligible to receive tax deductible contributions. CERPP is governed by a volunteer board of directors.

Who is CERPP?

CERPP is an organization of fellow Citizens and Emergency Personnel who are:

- Residents of the WFPD
- Residents of the towns of Portola Valley and Woodside

- County Representatives
- Fire Chief and Staff WFPD
- Red Cross Executives
- Office of Emergency Services Representatives
- Humane Society Representatives

How Can I Participate?

1. Contact the WFPD business office at (650) 851-1594 during business hours (8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Monday-Thursday) to learn which division includes your residence.
2. Contact your division leader to see if your neighborhood is already organized. If it is, call your neighborhood team leader and join the team. If your neighborhood has no team, your division leader will help you start one.

Participation in a CERPP team is a good way to meet your neighbors, and requires only a small commitment of time. The rewards are an enhanced sense of community, and the confidence that you and your neighbors will be prepared to help each other in times of great stress.



Did You Know?

The easiest way to know what's going on with CERPP is to join the CERPP Yahoo! E-Mail Group.

Event announcements, committee meetings, agendas, minutes, best practices, outside training events, etc... It all gets announced on the CERPP Yahoo! list. But lest you worry your in box will overflow, the last 12 months have averaged about 6 messages a month.

To join the group...

Point your web browser to:

<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/cerpp/>

or send an email to:

cerpp-subscribe@yahoogroups.com

When there is an emergency in progress, the town Emergency Operations Centers (EOCs) or the fire department will update the following phone number with current information:

EMERGENCY HOTLINE ACTIVATED
1-866-44-CERPP or 1-866-442-3777
(toll-free)

"Access San Mateo County"



San Mateo County residents can now easily send a question, complaint, comment or compliment

through the Internet directly to the responsible County staff person in many departments.

The information is logged as a case, and the resident can track the status of the case via the web any time of the day or night. Each time a new case is entered into the system, a County staff person who is qualified to respond is automatically assigned to manage the case and resolve the issue.

The goal is to improve customer service with the help of easy-to-use technology. The system automatically routes the case to the responsible staff person based on the selection of topics and subtopics.

The system is called "Access San Mateo County" and can be found on the right-hand side of the County's Internet home page, www.co.sanmateo.ca.us or on the pages of many of the departments that are linked to the system.

The initial launch included the departments of Housing, Planning and Building and Public Works. Other departments that are now going on-line with "Access San Mateo County" are San Mateo Medical Center, Environmental Health, Public Health and the County Manager's Office. More departments will soon be added.

The system also contains a list of frequently asked questions that provide information on everything from who to contact about problems with stop signs to questions about building codes to how to obtain a birth certificate. Department managers have the ability to track response times in order to ensure residents receive timely answers.

It's important to note the system is not designed to report emergencies or other serious matters. Please call 9-1-1 during an emergency.

"Access San Mateo County" is one of the latest methods the County is using to provide residents an easy way to find information fast. For instance, the County's home page is undergoing a redesign that aims to help residents, visitors and business owners and managers find the information they need fast. The County is also posting videos and slide shows about programs and services.

For more information about Access San Mateo County or other issues, please contact Jeremy Dennis in the County Manager's Office at (650) 363-7833.

Discover a Jewel of Emerald Hills By Bill Korbholz, President Friends of Edgewood Natural Preserve



Edgewood County Park and Natural Preserve might just be one of the best-kept secrets in our Emerald Hills community. It's surprising how

few of our homeowners know about or take advantage of Edgewood. As one of the leaders of the volunteer Friends of Edgewood organization, I'm delighted to have an opportunity to acquaint readers with this county park.

By nature, county parks tend to be less developed than city parks, and Edgewood meets this standard. Of its nearly 500 acres, all but the small area known as the Day Camp have remained in their natural state. Well almost. In fact, a fairly large contingent of weeders roams weekly throughout Edgewood in an effort to remove the non-native invaders like yellow-star thistle, French broom, and Italian ryegrass. We are all the beneficiaries of their efforts: most of Edgewood's plant communities have been restored to their natural balanced ecosystem.

Why does this matter? Well, Edgewood is probably best known for its beautiful wildflower displays during the springtime. But without intervention, those displays would be severely compromised by weeds, which tend to choke out the native plants. Even the natives that have adapted to the harsh demands of Edgewood's serpentine soils are threatened, because those very soils are being slowly enriched by the nitrogen that spews from vehicles travelling along I-280. The richer the soil, the more the weeds like it.

Visitors to Edgewood during the fall will enjoy the nuts and berries that are prominent. You'll find plump acorns on the leather oaks, translucent honeysuckle fruits that resemble salmon eggs (honestly), and of course the bright red berries from toyon, also known as Christmas berry.

Where is Edgewood? The main entrance is right off of Edgewood Road between the Alameda and I-280. However, I favor the Sunset Entrance at Sunset and Hillcrest, which is close to my home. The park is open every day from about sun up to sun down, and it costs nothing. Truly a secret jewel in the rough.

Thanks for Your Continued Support
A Message From EHHA Treasurer, Tim Farrar



I'm pleased to report that we have continued to receive donations from many residents over the last few months, and now have received 102 donations, totaling \$4,860 since April of this year. This represents 44 donations, totaling \$2,200 (since the last newsletter was published in July) and brings us close to meeting our budget for the year. However, as I noted in the last newsletter, we hope you will continue to support the Association and we can reach our goal of \$7,000 in donations, which will ensure we have the resources to continue regular publication of the newsletter next year, pay for the next annual meeting, and future community events. At present, the Association has some \$4,300 in the bank account, prior to receipt of promised newsletter sponsorships and advertising, and we hope to increase this to over \$5,000 by the end of the year.

Your donations have allowed us to fund the costs associated with the community picnic held in September, although of course the wonderful contribution of Emerald Market and other supporters allowed the costs to the Association to be reduced substantially, with most of the expenditure going to signs which were designed to be re-used next year. The total cost of the picnic to EHHA was just under \$1,500, including the signs, other supplies and costs for the venue (which again, were very kindly discounted by the Elks Lodge). Our major expenditure continues to be on the newsletter, and we are grateful that increasing numbers of residents have opted to receive it by email and also that we have been able to secure sponsorships/advertising to offset some of these costs.

You may have seen board members and other volunteers wearing Emerald Hills polo shirts at the community picnic. All of the board members have purchased their own polo shirts, but the EHHA also has a limited number of additional polo shirts, which we have decided to give away to supporters who donate \$100 or more to the Association. We would very much appreciate your contribution, so if you would like a polo shirt then please include a note indicating your shirt size with your donation of \$100 or more.

Enclosed with this newsletter you will find a donation envelope, which you may use to send contributions, with checks payable to the EHHA. If you receive the newsletter electronically, then you may send donations to us by mail at EHHA, Attn: Treasurer, PO Box 620449, Woodside, CA 94062, or you may donate by PayPal via the website at www.emeraldhills.org/pages/donate.html. Thank you.

Dear Editor,

In the August 11, 2008 newsletter, a resident voiced his concerns regarding traffic calming—specifically speed bumps. With all do respect for his concerns, the time it takes to slow down at a speed bump does not present perilous delays. Albeit speed bumps are not the only alternative to traffic calming—which should be a concern to all residents—options need to be considered. In fact, speeding frequently is the cause of injuries and deaths, not minimum speed bump delays. You can see, read and hear about it on a weekly basis. A few months ago a dog was killed by a speeder on my street. I'm amazed that Emerald Hills has not experienced more accidents with its narrow roads and speeding drivers.

Perhaps if we drive with respect and consideration, and teach our young drivers to do the same, our neighborhood will be a better place. I assure you my family and I will do our part.

The respect and consideration you give is equal to the respect and consideration you get.

Bayardo Chamorro, a twenty-year resident

 **Question Corner** 

Several members of the community have expressed their dissatisfaction with our garbage collection service. We want to hear from others in the community. How satisfied are you with the service provided by Allied Waste?

- Very satisfied
- Satisfied
- Neither
- Dissatisfied
- Very dissatisfied

The Association Board would like to know if the community is interested in building a community float and participating in the 71st Annual Independence Day Parade (downtown Redwood City July 4, 2009).

- Yes, I'm interested! No, thank you.

Please let us know your answers by returning this card or emailing us at board@emeraldhills.org. Thanks!

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone or Email: _____

Yes! I want to contribute...

- I'd like to contribute \$35.
- I can spare a bit more. Here is my donation for \$50.
- Here is my contribution for \$100.
My shirt size is SM MED L XL
- I'm a resident of one of the most desirable neighborhoods on the Peninsula, and I want to keep it that way! Here is my contribution of \$ _____.

-
- My check is enclosed.

If you would like to donate via credit card, please visit
www.emeraldhills.org/pages/donate.html

Your personal information is kept confidential.

Name

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Emerald Hills, CA 94062

City, State Zip

Phone # (optional)

E-mail Address (optional, but requested)

- Please send the email newsletter instead of print, to help preserve the environment *and* save the Association money.
- Please send me both the print and email newsletter.

You can make donations online at
www.emeraldhills.org/pages/donate.html
or you can mail your contributions to:

EHHA, PO Box 620449, Woodside, CA 94062

Please note that donations to the EHHA are not tax deductible.

Contact the Board of Directors

- Adriana Botto ¹ (Secretary/Newsletter Ed.).....368-5678
- Tom Brouchoud ² (Vice President).....366-7890
- Tim Farrar ¹ (Treasurer).....642-5195
- Joe Foraker ².....868-7495
- Frank Fraone ¹.....743-3900
- Michael Mangini ¹ (President).....365-4449
- Carla Rayacich ¹.....299-0279
- Mike Sherman ² (Webmaster/Database Mgr.)..544-0896
- Marline Underwood ² (Community Picnic)224-1214

¹ Term expires at the 2009 Annual Meeting of Members
² Term expires at the 2010 Annual Meeting of Members

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Thank you to our picnic sponsors:

- ❖ Aveda Spa & Nail Salon
- ❖ Budget Signs
- ❖ Canyon Auto Service
- ❖ Canyon Cleaners
- ❖ Canyon Coffee Roastery
- ❖ Canyon Inn
- ❖ Cielo Salon
- ❖ Daylight Sales LLC
- ❖ Emerald Hills Lodge & Golf Course / Redwood City Elks Lodge #1991
- ❖ Emerald Market
- ❖ Momo the Clown
- ❖ Paymon's Real Estate
- ❖ Sancho's Taqueria
- ❖ Snap Fitness

Thank you to our picnic volunteers:

- ❖ Wes Craddock
- ❖ Steve Gilsdorf
- ❖ Rose Marie Gissel
- ❖ Evelyn Logan
- ❖ Sanda Logan
- ❖ Jean Massing
- ❖ Phyllis McGrath
- ❖ Jan Molvar
- ❖ Karen Montague
- ❖ Gayle Morrison
- ❖ Karen Sherman



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