Emerald Hills Homeowners Association, Inc. PO Box 620449 Woodside, CA 94062 www.emeraldhills.org

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# **Emerald Hills Review**

Emerald Hills Homeowners Association Newsletter

July 8, 2009





## It's Party Time in Emerald Hills!

Mark your calendars and plan to join your friends and neighbors for an afternoon of food, music, and good old-fashioned family fun at the:

> 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Association-Sponsored **Emerald Hills Community Picnic**

Saturday, September 12, 2009 1:00 pm to 5:00 pm

**Emerald Hills Lodge & Golf Course** 138 Wilmington Way, Emerald Hills



Last year, more than 350 residents came out to enjoy a great BBQ, make new friends, play with the kids, and just kick back on a beautiful September afternoon. This year, we plan to add some musical entertainment to go with the food, fun, and family games.

Once again, volunteers are needed to help put up signs, set up, serve, supervise games, and tear down, so if you'd like to lend a hand, meet new people, and can spare an hour or two, please call our Event Chair, Carl Touhey, at (650) 368-2216 or send him an email at ctouhey@earthlink.net.

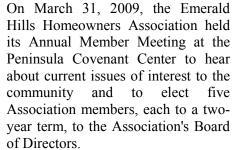
To help defray the cost of food this year, tickets for the picnic will be \$5 for adults and \$3 for children under 12. Tickets can be purchased at the picnic (exact change please) or purchased on-line, but we'd really like to know how many to plan for, so please let us know if you're planning to come by dropping us a line or answering the email invitation that our Webmaster will be sending out in August.

Come out to party with the folks in Emerald Hills as we celebrate living in one of the best communities in San Mateo County!

The EHHA Board would like to thank the Emerald Hills Lodge / Elks Lodge #1991 for allowing us to use their wonderful facilities for our second annual **Emerald Hills Community Picnic. Thank you!** 

# **2009 EHHA Annual Member Meeting**Michael Mangini, EHHA President







The sixty plus residents who attended the meeting were treated to presentations from:

- Christina Kerby and Joseph Ortiz, from the San Francisco Public Utilities Commission, who updated the community on the Hetch Hetchy Water System Improvement Program;
- ❖ Lt. Murray "Randy" Randleman, Lt. Ken Jones, Sgt. Mike Otte, and Deputy Jerry Justice Randy, from the San Mateo Co Sheriff's office, who emphasized the importance of calling 911 to notify the authorities of suspicious individuals in our community;
- ❖ Sgt. Paul McCarthy from the California Highway Patrol, who explained traffic enforcement initiatives currently underway in our area; and
- ❖ long-time Emerald Hills resident and former San Mateo County Sheriff, Don Horsley, who announced his candidacy for the District 3 seat on the San Mateo County Board of Supervisors, representing the residents of Emerald Hills in county government.

All in all, a really impressive program!

In addition to the speakers, three other VIPs attended the meeting: Diana Shu from San Mateo County Public Works; Steve Harper, former EHHA Board Member who holds the record for the longest term of service on the Board (16 years); and the Honorable Carol Groom, member of the San Mateo County Board of Supervisors from District 2. This was the first time in recent memory that a sitting member of the Board of Supervisors has attended a community meeting in Emerald Hills!

The official business conducted at the meeting included a financial report from Treasurer Tim Farrar, the year in review presented by President Michael Mangini, and the election of five Board Members for the 2009-2011 term. Although Board Members Adriana Botto, Frank Fraone, and Carla Rayacich chose not to run for another term, their service to the community was truly appreciated and acknowledged by all in attendance. Adriana Botto, in

particular, was recognized for her service as Board Secretary during which she brought a professional level of quality to both EHHA record keeping and production of the *Emerald Hills Review*.

After no nominations were received from the floor, the following individuals were elected to new two-year terms: Tim Farrar and Michael Mangini (incumbents), and new members Jay Roses, Carl Touhey, and John Raleigh. Jay Roses and Carl Touhey both bring professional experience in marketing that will enhance the Board's ability to produce the newsletter and stage special events, while John Raleigh's professional background in building and structural engineering will provide the Board with insight into interfacing with County governmental agencies such as Public Works, and Planning and Building.

The new Board has already set some ambitious goals for the upcoming year, which include making the *Emerald Hills Review* financially self-sufficient, achieving more widespread attendance at the



monthly Board meetings by scheduling speakers on topics of community interest, and making the upcoming



SECOND ANNUAL EMERALD HILLS COMMUNITY PICNIC an even bigger success than last year! So stay tuned! The best place to live in San Mateo County is only going to get better as the EHHA Board and the residents of Emerald

Hills continue to build community in 2009.

#### 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 <a href="https://www.emeraldhills.org">www.emeraldhills.org</a>.

"The mission of the Emerald Hills Homeowners Association is to develop a sense of community by sponsoring events of common interest and providing a collective voice for communication among Emerald Hills residents with government and other organizations."

#### PLANNING AND BUILDING DEPARTMENT

# What's Up With Design Review in Emerald Hills? An Update

Erica Adams, Design Review Officer from the San Mateo County Planning Department, gave a presentation at the Board's well-attended June 10, 2009 meeting, outlining the current requirements for passing Design Review in Emerald Hills. Ms. Adams noted that as of January 2007, when the Design Review Committee was dissolved by the Board of Supervisors, applications for building permits requiring Design Review (i.e. those involving new construction or major remodels with significant exterior work) are now submitted directly to the Design Review Officer for approval. She detailed the steps applicants should follow to successfully navigate the Design Review hearing process, and highlighted those points in the process where neighbors could offer input into the final decision.

Responding to a question about results of the 2008 Design Review Community Survey, Ms. Adams said that because only 18% of residents responded to the survey, the Planning and Building Department would maintain the status quo for now. Board President Michael Mangini then added that community workshops

facilitated by the Peninsula Conflict Resolution Center had been budgeted by the County to take place in FY '09/'10, but that the economic downturn had resulted in those plans being put on hold.

In closing, Ms. Adams urged neighbors in Emerald Hills to talk with each other to achieve agreement on project details before permits are issued in order to avoid neighborhood discord arising after projects have begun.

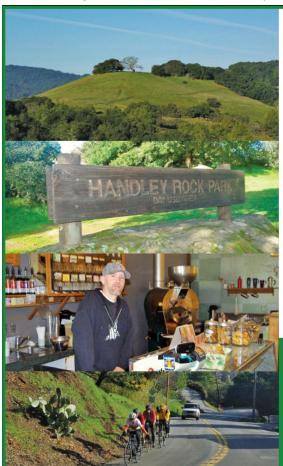


#### DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS

#### Parking Issues on Edgewood Road? East of Edgewood Interpretive Center

San Mateo County's Department of Public Works has recently received requests to study the parking issues along Edgewood Road east of the Edgewood Interpretive Center. It is their understanding that the spillover parking from the county park has affected local residents. While they have been working with the Parks Department to address this issue, they would also like to work with the residents in this area.

If you have concerns about the spillover parking east of Edgewood Interpretive Center, please contact Robin duSaint, P.E., Associate Civil Engineer at (650) 363-4103 or email at rdusaint@co.sanmateo.ca.us.



Perhaps my favorite image of the Emerald Hills is from times spent on back decks during winter rains. But, maybe it's a summertime swim at Lower Emerald Lake, a hike around Edgewood Park, or a Bleu Swiss Burger at the Canyon Inn. Whatever it is, it's these unique feelings that make the Emerald Hills a very special place to live.

Please give me a call, write or visit my website at www.TheEmeraldHills.com if you have questions on any real estate topics. If you are considering selling your home, I'm happy to provide a no obligation valuation estimate. If you have friends, family or acquaintances looking to enjoy the beauty of the Emerald Hills, I'm never too busy for any of your referrals.

Best regards,

John Sieling





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# A Reminder about the 2009 Fire Season Woodside Fire Protection District Prevention Division

The Woodside Fire Protection District is sending out a



reminder that the 2009 Fire Season is quickly approaching. With climatic and meteorological indicators suggesting a hot dry summer, the fire danger in our rural community is worrisome at the very least.

It is well recognized that our ability to live more safely in this environment depends upon our "pre-fire" preparedness. Measures taken before a wildfire occurs will improve the survivability of individuals, property, homes, our natural resources, and our open space.

As they do every year, Woodside Fire is urging residents to create a defensible space around their home by

- clearing brush 30 to 100 ft. away from structures
- mowing grass 4 to 6 inches
- planting low growing fire resistant vegetation
- cutting tree limbs 5 to 7 ft. off the ground
- trimming branches away from structures
- removing dead vegetation and flashy fuels such as dry grass 30 ft. inside the perimeter of property lines
- removing pine needles and other debris from rooftops

The Woodside Fire Protection District will be out in force in the upcoming months, inspecting homes to make sure property owners are complying with Government Code 51182 and the California Fire Code.

Please feel free to contact Denise Enea at Woodside Fire for any further information regarding wildfire awareness, using ignition resistant building materials, and/or creating defensible space around your home at (650) 851-6206 or <a href="mailto:denea@woodsidefire.org">denea@woodsidefire.org</a>. For useful fire prevention tips and information, log onto <a href="https://www.woodsidefire.org">www.woodsidefire.org</a>.

Remember the three R's of Defensible Space: Removal, Reduction, and Replacement

PLEASE PLAY IT SAFE.
DEFENSIBLE SPACE!

# Protecting Your Home from a Brush Fire Danger Spots Around Your Home and What You Can Do the Eliminate Them

#### **Problem:** Untreated Wood Shake Roofs

Untreated, wood shake roofs can easily catch fire from windblown sparks and embers, and are the number one cause of home losses in wildland fires.

**Solution:** If you re-roof, install a fire-resistant roof.

#### Problem: Debris on Roof

Tinder dry needles and leaves on your roof and in your rain gutters can easily catch fire and endanger your home. **Solution:** Sweep your gutters and roof on a regular basis, especially during the dry, hot weather of the fire season

## **Problem:** Tree Limbs too Close to Your Chimney and Roof

Tree limbs too close to your chimney can easily ignite and endanger your home. Dead limbs overhanging your home may ignite and spread a fire to your home

**Solution:** Trim all tree limbs that are within 10 feet of your chimney and remove all dead limbs overhanging your home or garage.

#### **Problem:** No Screen on Attic and Foundation Vents

Sparks or embers from an approaching wildland fire can get into your home through unprotected vents and ignite your home.

**Solution:** Cover your attic, roof, and foundation with vents that prohibit the intrusion of embers.

#### **Problem:** No Spark Arrester on Your Chimney

A spark from your chimney can ignite the surrounding vegetation or an untreated wood shake roof.

**Solution:** To ensure that you don't create your own spark hazard, screen your chimneys with 1/4 inch mesh noncombustible wire screening.

# **Problem:** Combustible Materials Stored Too Close to Your Home

Firewood or other combustible materials stored too close to your home can ignite and cause a fire to spread to your home.

**Solution:** Store all combustible materials away from your home and keep the lids on your garbage cans.

#### **Problem:** No Address Visible From the Street

No visible address number will cause a delay in an emergency response. Remember the fire department cannot help you if they can't find you.

**Solution:** Make sure that your home can be quickly identified by ensuring that its address is clearly marked and visible.

#### Problem: Overgrown, Dead Landscaping

Overgrown, dead landscaping can ignite and endanger your home.

**Solution:** Maintain your landscaping. Trim and remove any dead vegetation. If you are re-landscaping, choose plants that are fire-resistant.

# **Problem:** No Defensible Space between Your Home and Vegetation

Flammable vegetation too close to your home will make it almost impossible for firefighters to save your home in the event of a brush fire.

**Solution:** Vegetation management is key. In most areas, a safety zone should be cleared away from your home for a distance of not less than 30 feet. As the slope of your lot increases, additional clearance as far out as 100 feet or more may be necessary.

# Project Update: New Bay Division Pipeline One Step Closer to Construction

Christina Kerby,

SFPUC Communications and Public Outreach



PROGRAM

The Bay Division Pipeline Reliability Upgrade Project, or Bay Division Pipeline 5, slated for construction on the Peninsula and East Bay, is nearing a very important milestone in the coming weeks, with the expected certification of the Final Environmental Impact Report (EIR) on July 9, 2009. If the EIR is certified on July 9, the

construction contracts, one for the East Bay, one for the West Bay, and one for the Tunnel, would be advertised in July and August.



The Project Team is finalizing formal agreements between the SFPUC and the cities and counties that construction would pass through. These agreements describe permits, construction coordination, public outreach, and SFPUC's restoration work in streets, parks, and schools following construction.



Construction is anticipated to take place between spring 2010 and spring 2012, and we should release a more precise construction schedule for Emerald Hills by February or March of next year. The construction team will have a local office on the Peninsula beginning in 2010, so we will be able to respond quickly to any questions or concerns in your neighborhood.

With the certification of the EIR and the completed agreements with the local jurisdictions, SFPUC would be one step closer to ensuring a reliable and earthquake-proof water supply for the Bay Area. We look forward to staying in touch as construction moves closer in the coming months and as always, we thank the EHHA members for including us in your community.

For any questions or more information about the project, please contact the SFPUC by phone at (800) 571-6610 or by email at <a href="mailto:baydivision@sfwater.org">baydivision@sfwater.org</a>.

Photos courtesy of SFPUC historical archives. *Top right:* Installation of Bay Division Pipeline Number 3 in the 1950's. The pipelines in our area are even older – they were installed in the 1920's and 30's. *Above left:* Classic Emerald Hills photo of the Bay Division Pipelines 1 & 2 above Edgewood Rd.

# CAUTION! Spontaneous Combustion of Oil Rags



In recent years, the Woodside Fire Protection District has had an increase in residential fire loss attributed to spontaneous combustion of oily rags.

Oil soaked (including linseed, stain, paint and vegetable oil) rags that are not stored properly can permit oxidation. Spontaneous combustion can quickly occur igniting the rags and anything else near them.

It is extremely important to read the label of wood stains



and paint products to determine the content of that product, and any precautions that might be on the label. Other natural oils such as mineral oil, cottonseed oil, cod and other fish oil, present similar problems.

Rags used with these products should be stored by submersing them in a

water filled metal container with a fitted lid.

#### **Builder and Neighbor Since 1959**



It all started fifty years ago with a commitment to solid craftsmanship and a drive to perform the job better than anyone else.

So, if you are planning a new home, a simple or complex remodeling, green building, a kitchen or a bath, Springs Construction is ready to help you expedite your building process. Whether you simply have an idea, or have plans ready for building, call us at (650) 298-9300. We are here to help.



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Page 5 of 8

# San Mateo County "News and Notes" by Marshall Wilson,

Public Communications Manager

#### San Mateo County Resources for Those in Need

Finding help for you or your family can be challenging, especially for those who are newly unemployed or have never before had trouble making a mortgage or rent payment. To help, San Mateo County has created an Internet site where



you will find information and resources including food, emergency shelter, housing assistance, employment/unemployment, health information and mortgage, rent and credit counseling.

The site is located on the County's home page at www.co.sanmateo.ca.us

San Mateo County has also partnered with the Silicon Valley Community Foundation to provide financial assistance to non-profit organizations that are helping residents survive the current economic recession.

San Mateo County will distribute up to \$500,000 to organizations in the county as part of an Economic Urgency Assistance Program, which was approved by the Board of Supervisors in April. The Silicon Valley Community Foundation will award \$1 million to organizations that provide food and shelter in San Mateo and Santa Clara counties.

#### **SMC Forum**

As California's budget crisis deepens, a new on-line forum offers San Mateo County residents the opportunity to voice their opinion about a proposal to convene a constitutional convention to overhaul state government.

The new on-line service, called *SMC Forum*, includes information about California's government and

background on the call for a constitutional convention. Backers of the proposal are convinced California government needs fixing to improve accountability and to avoid crisis-driven decision-making.



The forum is at <a href="www.co.sanmateo.ca.us/smcforum">www.co.sanmateo.ca.us/smcforum</a> or you can visit the County's Internet home page at <a href="www.co.sanmateo.ca.us">www.co.sanmateo.ca.us</a>, and look under the "News" tab.

#### **Going Green**

Check out tips on how to "go green" in a new video produced by San Mateo County in cooperation with Peninsula Television. The video, which was created at



no cost to the County, highlights environmentally friendly resources for residents, public agencies and companies. The video can be found at www.greensanmateocounty.org.

#### **Voter Information**

You can check your voter registration status and learn about how to vote by mail at San Mateo County's official elections website: www.shapethefuture.org

The site also contains timely blogs, a Twitter site, how-to videos, and useful information such as voting trends in San Mateo County, a quiz for elections workers, and archived election results.



# Do You Have a Question about San Mateo County Government?



Please contact Deputy County Manager Peggy Jensen at pjensen@co.sanmateo.ca.us or (650) 363-4598 or **Public** Communications Manager Wilson Marshall at mwilson@co.sanmateo.ca.us (650) 363-4153.

# Are You Unemployed, Underemployed, or Seeking a New Career Direction?

If you are struggling with job loss or are looking for work, you are invited to attend the **Edgewood Works Employment Support Group** at St. Matthias Church, 1685 Cordilleras Road. The group meets on Monday mornings from 9:00 am to 11:00 am to share emotional, spiritual, and networking support, and to hear job search advice from guest speakers. All are welcome as we discuss and share information on topics such as résumés, interviews, networking, emotional support, and finances. Edgewood Works is a self-supported, all-volunteer group. There is no cost to attend and drop-ins are welcome. For more information please contact program coordinator Cindy Gammer at (650) 906-8836 or ckgammer@aol.com.

#### **Thanks for Your Continued Support**

A Message From EHHA Treasurer, Tim Farrar

Despite the difficult economic environment, the Association has recorded donations totaling \$2,255 from 48 residents so far this year, and had almost \$5,700 in the bank at the beginning of June (before the costs of producing this newsletter). Our current bank balance represents a significant improvement on the position earlier this year, due to a combination of donations received in response to the last newsletter, economies made on expenditure for the annual member meeting, and new revenues from advertising in the newsletter. We are extremely grateful both to residents for their support, which will allow us to organize the community picnic in September, and to our advertisers, who are covering a large proportion of the printing and mailing costs for this newsletter. We intend to publish four newsletters during the course of the year, and hope to increase the number of advertisements slightly in future issues, so that the full cost of the newsletter printing and mailing can be covered. For any local merchants or realtors out there, please consider advertising in the newsletter: it is a very cost effective way of reaching our community, and we know from residents' feedback that it is widely read, and does not just go straight in the recycling.



As mentioned previously, the EHHA has available a limited number of high-quality polo shirts embroidered with the Emerald Hills logo, which we have decided to give away to supporters who donate \$100 or more to the Association. If you would like a polo shirt, please include a note indicating your shirt size with your donation of \$100 or more. We would very much appreciate your contribution.

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 <a href="https://www.emeraldhills.org/pages/donate.html">www.emeraldhills.org/pages/donate.html</a>. Thank you.

# Saving you energy and money & reducing the impact you have on the environment.



Roughly 80% of a home's natural gas use goes toward heating space and water. As much as half of the energy used in the home is wasted sending nearly four tons of green house gases into the air each month. Efficient heating and cooling is the solution.

Call us at (650) 366-3400 and mention that you are a member of the EHHA for a free heating or cooling system check.

Green Mechanical & HVAC, INC Lic #907402 (650) 366-3400 www.greenmechanical.net

# Join The EHHA Online Discussion Forums! An Update on Association Technology

An Update on Association Technology by Mike Sherman



In January 2009, the EHHA started an online discussion forum. Through online services provided by Big Tent (<a href="www.bigtent.com">www.bigtent.com</a>), our Association is able to process membership updates and manage email list-serves.

Big Tent has a very strict privacy policy and does not sell, rent or give user information to ANY third parties.

How to join the forum:

- 1. Go to www.emeraldhills.org;
- 2. Click on the "Emerald Hills Big Tent" tab; and
- 3. Fill in the "New EHHA Big Tent Member" form with your name, address, and email address.

We'll send you an invitation to join! It's that easy.

#### Imagine Your Ad Here!

To help cover printing and mailing costs, the *Emerald Hills Review* is now accepting ads from local service providers.

# Let the 1,700 households in Emerald Hills know you're there!

For more information, contact Newsletter Editor Adriana Botto at (650) 368-5678 or send an email to board@emeraldhills.org.

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 ☐ Ladies' ☐ Men's ☐ 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 <a href="www.emeraldhills.org/pages/donate.html">www.emeraldhills.org/pages/donate.html</a>	
Your personal information is kept confidential.	
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Please send the <u>email newsletter instead of print</u> , to help preserve the environment <i>and</i> save the Association money.	
☐ Please send me <u>both</u> the print and email newsletter.	
You can make donations online at <a href="https://www.emeraldhills.org/pages/donate.html">www.emeraldhills.org/pages/donate.html</a> 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

Tom Brouchoud <sup>1</sup> (Vice President)	366-7890
Tim Farrar <sup>2</sup> ( <i>Treasurer</i> )	642-5195
Joe Foraker <sup>1</sup>	868-7495
Michael Mangini <sup>2</sup> (President)	365-4449
John Raleigh <sup>2</sup>	743-4111
Jay Roses <sup>2</sup> (Corr. Secretary)	766-7425
Mike Sherman ' (Webmaster/Database Mgr.)	544-0896
Carl Touhey <sup>2</sup> (Community Picnic)	368-2216
Marline Underwood <sup>1</sup>	224-1214

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> Term expires at the 2010 Annual Meeting of Members

<sup>2</sup> Term expires at the 2011 Annual Meeting of Members



### ERPP Citizens **Emergency** Response and **Preparedness** Program

Community Emergency Response Training, Be prepared...

Six evenings and a Saturday will prepare you to help your family, neighbors, and community during a disaster.

The next CERPP series is scheduled to start on Thursday, September 10, 2009. The class will run for six weeks on Thursday evenings, followed by a final exercise on Saturday, October 17, 2009.

#### Class #1, 6:30 pm - 9:00 pm, Fire Station 19

- Emergency Preparedness
- Potential Disasters & Emergencies
- **Emergency Preparedness**
- Fire Safety

#### Class #2, 6:30 pm - 9:00 pm, Fire Station 19

- Disaster Medical Operation (Part 1)
  - o Life Threatening Conditions
  - Triage

#### Class #3, 6:30 pm - 9:00 pm, Fire Station 19

- Disaster Medical Operation (Part 2)
  - Health considerations
  - o Emergency Medical Operations
  - Patient Evaluations
  - Burns/Fractures/Wounds
  - Heat & Cold Emergencies

#### Class #4, 6:30 pm - 9:00 pm, Fire Station 19

- Patient Transport
- SAR
  - Conducting a Search
  - o Conducting a Rescue
- **Utility Control**
- Damage Assessment

#### Class #5, 6:30 pm - 9:00 pm, Fire Station 19

- Utility Control and SAR Exercise
- Disaster Psychology

#### Class #6, 6:30 pm - 9:00 pm, Fire Station 19

- Neighborhood Team Organization
- Terrorism

#### Saturday Exercise, 9:00 am - 4:00 pm, Fire Station 7

A day of hands on training and exercises

Pre-registration is required. For more information or to register contact Pamela Van Horn at (650) 851-1594 or by email at pvanhorn@woodsidefire.org.