

Emerald Hills Review

A Publication of the Emerald Hills Homeowners Association HAPPY NEW YEAR 12 January, 2007

□ Address Label Goes Here

PARENTS!



- Unsure about the public K-8th school choices for Emerald Hills area residents?
- Debating public school vs. private school for your child?
- Looking for advice on what to look for in a good elementary school?

If so, you won't want to miss this community event!



K-8th Grade Parent Panel Discussion
7:00-8:30 p.m. Thursday, January 18th
Clifford School Auditorium

Parents with children at our local public schools will provide thoughtful, objective insight into our choices. Get real information from current parents. School Board members will also be present to answer questions.

Schools discussed will include:



- ✓ Roy Cloud: K-8th
- ✓ Clifford: K-8th
- ✓ John Gill: K-5th
- ✓ North Star Academy: 3rd -8th gifted and talented magnet
- ✓ Adelante: K-8th Spanish immersion magnet
- ✓ Orion: K-5th Parent participatory magnet

This community panel is sponsored by the Emerald Hills Homeowners Association (EHHA)

Visit www.emeraldhills.org for more information



Welcome, Fire Station #19

The new fire station at 4091 Jefferson Avenue opened on December 28, 2006. Station #19 is part of the Woodside Fire Protection District, Battalion 2. EHHA Board members Carolyn Chaney and Steve Hill stopped by the station and met Captain Bob Webb, who gave them a complete tour and talked about the station and district. Captain Webb is proud of the fire protection offered by San Mateo County, and he said that our county's fire agencies have among the most progressive fire protection services in terms of technology and training. Our firefighters in Emerald Hills are trained for both wild land fires and structural fires, since our area is comprised of many structures in a hilly and wooded area. Woodside Fire was the first in our county to provide fire station-based paramedic services, and the new station houses an ambulance. The new station also is home to the Fire Marshall, Fire Inspectors, and Selena Brown, a Public Education Officer. If you have a group (e.g., a school group or scout troop) that would like to learn about fire prevention and protection, contact Ms. Brown (650) 423-1406 or selenab@woodsidefire.org.

Station #19 wants to be a good neighbor in Emerald Hills. Fire Chief Armando Muela has already held one meeting with local neighbors to talk about finishing touches to the station, including lighting and landscaping. The station has a community room, which can be reserved by nonprofit groups for classes and meetings. And, this spring (April or May), the station and the EHHA Board will co-host a neighborhood event, such as a BBQ or an ice cream social. So, stay tuned.



Do you know:

* What **Fire Net 7** (No Fences; No Boundaries) means?

* The difference between a **fire truck** and a **fire engine**?

See the answers to **Do You Know** elsewhere in this issue.

Sewer Talk

During this past fall, the EHHA Sewer Task Force met to identify possible opportunities to reduce sewer rates. Their work included a joint meeting with homeowners from other San Mateo County Sewer Districts, meetings with officials from the cities of Redwood City and San Carlos, and a meeting with Neil Cullen, director of San Mateo County Public Works.

During this process the Task Force members learned that our high sewer rates are related to:

- the age of our sewer system,
- the high fees paid by the County to RWC and San Carlos for the use of their lines to transport sewage from the hills to the wastewater treatment facility, and
- the limited number of people in our two service districts (Zone 1, the W. Summit area, and Zone 2, most of EH) who share the costs.

Although there are costly new state requirements to control overflows in the sewer lines, many jurisdictions are able to implement them without doubling sewer rates, as was proposed in San Mateo County.

The Task Force has identified three options that may reduce rates.

- The County could reduce next year's sewer charges, based on its ability to inspect and repair only a portion of the district's lines in one year.

- RWC could take over the system (at least for Zone 2) to spread costs over a larger population. RWC has requested a systems analysis to determine if this is feasible.

- The County could re-negotiate with RWC and San Carlos to reduce the contract rates for the use of their sewer lines to the wastewater treatment plant.

The Task Force will continue to work with City and County officials to keep our sewer rates reasonable. Our thanks to Cheryl McGovern and Steve Hill (EHHA Board Members) and to Doug Finlay and Alisa Greene-MacAvoy for taking on this project that is so important to Emerald Hills Homeowners.



Emerald Market: Part of our Community

It's wonderful to have the Emerald Market open to service our shopping needs. But the market is much more than just a new pretty face. The Aho family purchased the property and opened its doors last November. They bring to the market a unique desire to be part of, and give back to, the local community. In fact, many of the Aho family members live in Emerald Hills or nearby Redwood City.

In the two short months that it's been open, the Emerald Market has sponsored two charity events. The first was a fundraiser BBQ for Saint Matthias Church with all proceeds donated back to the church. The second was a BBQ with live music for the Rotary Club. This time the market donated 2 used cars to the Rotary Club to be given back to the community. In addition, the Market is hosting tours of the market for local preschoolers.

The Emerald Market's plans are to do one BBQ fundraiser a month. Next up will be Saturday BBQs for local schools. Contact Chris Dabit, Assistant General Manager at 568-6000 if you have a group that is interested in a BBQ fundraiser.

Changes in Design Review Committee

In December, the San Mateo County Board of Supervisors announced that Farhad Mortazahi of the Planning Staff will be reviewing all EH projects that require Design Review. Mr. Mortazahi has been the Design Review administrator for over 5 years. The Supervisors are taking applications for a new community representative and two architect positions, and they hope to fill all three positions this spring. The Design Review Committee reviews plans for new homes, major remodels and building additions to see that they are compliant with the community standards. San Mateo County has established many Design Review committees to serve communities in the unincorporated areas.

Applications for the community representative or the architect positions may be submitted to Supervisor Rich Gordon; for more details contact his aide, Jeremy Dennis at 650-288-6261. The community member does not need to have any specific design training, but must be familiar with the community.

Get Involved in the EHHA

- Do you love Emerald Hills?
- Do you want to help preserve the uniqueness of the area?
- Are you willing to get involved in your community?
- Do you see the Homeowner's Association as a positive contributor to our quality of life in Emerald Hills?

If the answers to these questions are YES, consider joining the Emerald Hills Homeowners Association Board of Directors. Our annual meeting and elections will be held in the last 2 weeks of March (exact date tbd). Please contact our Nominating Committee board@emeraldhills.org or call Sallie Martin at 369-7494 for more information.

Emerald Hills Emergency Response Team

Imagine that disaster has occurred in Emerald Hills. Who would know how to safely evacuate people immediately? Our Emerald Hills CERT teams!

Once again, Redwood City is offering a 20-hour course to train Community Emergency Response Teams. They will group people by neighborhood (including Emerald Hills) to teach them the skills. The curriculum includes:

- * Fire Safety
- * Light Search and Rescue
- * Team Organization
- * Disaster Medical Operations

The course takes place in 3 required sessions:

- Wednesday, March 14 6:30 to 9 PM
- Saturday, March 17 8 AM to 5PM
- Saturday, March 24 8 AM to 5PM

To register call 780-7400 or email from the website <http://www.redwoodcity.org/fire/disaster/signupforCERT.html>. We now have a growing number of Emerald Hills residents trained in CERT. To be added to the Emerald Hills CERT mailing list, please send an email to Vicky Tuite at vtuite@yahoo.com.

The schedule for CPR and First Aid training through the Woodside Fire Protection District is not yet available for 2007. They typically have one CPR or one First Aid class a month. Their website is <http://www.cerpp.org/>. Click on the Training and Events Tab.

Yes, I will help preserve Emerald Hills!

- I'd like to contribute the standard annual membership dues of \$25.
- I can spare a bit more to help. Here is my donation for \$40.
- 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 \$_____ to help continue/expand our efforts.

- My check is enclosed.
- Please charge my Visa or MasterCard:

Credit Card # Expiry Date

Name on Card Billing Zip Code

Your personal information is kept confidential.

Name

Street Address

Emerald Hills, CA 94062

City, ST Zip

Home Phone# (optional)

E-mail address (optional but requested)

- Please send the email newsletter instead of print, to help save the association money.
- Please send me both printed and email newsletters.

Pay dues online, or mail your contribution to:
EHHA
P.O. Box 620449
Woodside, CA 94062

The best way to stay informed: get on our email list!

If you aren't already one of the 650+ homeowners "in-the-know," please send us your email address. Just drop a message to Lee.Lukehart@emeraldhills.org. Unless you request to not receive notices, you'll be alerted to late-breaking community news and issues. You'll also save the association money, since we'll send you email instead of a printed newsletter. (If you want to receive **both** the print newsletter and the email—just ask!). To revise or update your member information please contact database manager Lee Lukehart.

Current Board of Directors

| | | |
|-----------------|----------|----------------|
| Carolyn Chaney | 364-5547 | Newsletter Ed |
| Amy French | 306-9048 | |
| Steve Harper | 368-4254 | |
| Carole Henley | 365-8559 | Vice President |
| Steve Hill | 361-1567 | |
| Lee Lukehart | 366-5335 | Treasurer |
| Sallie Martin | 369-7494 | President |
| Cheryl McGovern | 862-8288 | Secretary |
| Milo Medin | 363-8404 | |

Answers to Do You Know?

1. **Fire Net 7 (No Fences; No Boundaries)** means that when you have an emergency, the closest fire engine and/or ambulance gets the call. Gone are the days when your house next to a fire station might burn down because it isn't within the station's area of service. Now you can get help from Woodside Fire Protection, Redwood City Fire Department (located on Jefferson), or CDF (California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection, located on Edmonds Road, off Edgewood).

2. A fire engine carries water, while a fire truck does not!