

# Emerald Hills Review

A Publication of the Emerald Hills Homeowners Association

8 October 2007

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## County Adopts New Sewer Maintenance Ordinance: Rates to Rise

On August 7, 2007, the San Mateo County Board of Supervisors unanimously adopted changes to the County Sanitation and Health Ordinance Code. The new ordinance raises our sewer rates over the next five years. The table below summarizes rates for each residential unit in Emerald Hills, zones 1 and 2.

Previously, the sewer rates adopted for the 2006-07 fiscal year were increased in Emerald Hills and in five (5) of the County’s Sewer Districts in order to cover the costs of sewage treatment, downstream capital improvements, and operation and maintenance. The rate increases approved for some of the districts last year were only sufficient to cover operations and maintenance costs and not proactive or required programs such as: implementation of a Sewer System Management Plan, district capital improvement projects, or contingencies.

The EHHA appointed an ad hoc committee to try to work with County and Redwood City officials to

ensure that the rates paid by our residents are fair, in comparison to other county and city residents. It seems that county residents may pay more than city residents, because RWC charges the county for use of its system and those charges are passed along to homeowners, thus allowing a higher overall rate for county homes than for city homes.

A County sponsored community meeting was held on 5-31-07, where the proposed new rates were reviewed along with the justification for them. A total of three people, including two members of the EHHA Board of Directors, attended this meeting, which was our last opportunity to question the basis for the increases before enactment by the Supervisors.

For more information, go the San Mateo County website, <http://www.co.sanmateo.ca.us>, then click on Department of Public Works, and then on 2007-08 Sewer Charge Rate Information.

<b>District</b>	<b>2007-8</b>	<b>2008-9</b>	<b>2009-10</b>	<b>2010-11</b>	<b>2011-12</b>
EH Zone 1	\$750	900	1050	1100	1130
EH Zone 2	550	670	750	770	810



### What's New at the Emerald Marketplace?

Have you spent some time just hanging out at the new community store area? If so, you've probably noticed a number of changes. The Canyon Cleaners has moved over one space. Sancho's Taqueria is serving its yummy menu out of new and enlarged premises, so now you can sit down and chat with friends or watch a bit of TV. On the Canyon Street side, Paymon's Realty has opened next to the community message board; be sure to stop and check the board every now and then for up-to-the-minute community news.



Local resident Charles Mell (right) enjoys a treat at Skinny Sippin with pals Alissa Read and Larry Pereira

Tucked in the corner is Skinny Sippin, where you and your friends can enjoy soft-serve yogurt, juices, fresh fruit smoothies and more. If you've patronized the original San Carlos store, you know how delicious and healthy these treats can be. Monday evening is dollar cone night. Welcome to the neighborhood, Skinny Sippin!

If you need to work off a few extra calories, Snap Fitness has opened in the double location formerly occupied by Curves and the cleaners. Snap Fitness offers state-of-the-art exercise equipment and personal trainers to help you plan your exercise program. After a grand opening celebration on September 29, the new facility is offering a Charter Member special, including free enrollment, through October 31.



To find out more about rates or to tour the facility, stop in to visit or call 587-5170. The manager, Marlo Marcelino (pictured above on an elliptical crosstrainer) can give you more information. Best times to visit are during staffed hours, Monday through Friday 9-3 and 5:30-7 and Saturday 12-4. Or visit [www.snapfitness.com/redwoodcity](http://www.snapfitness.com/redwoodcity)

Chris Dabit, Emerald Market manager, reports that the market continues to welcome feedback from the community. The market wants to be a strong member of the community and is thrilled that the marketplace has become a place to relax and hang out with friends. One of the ways that the Emerald Market contributes is by hosting monthly barbeques that support local charities. In September Emerald Market employees cooked up a BBQ to benefit "Walking for Ben" and the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society. Here's how it works: Emerald Market and its suppliers donate the food items and staff to cook the BBQ. When you and your friends stop by for a delicious and reasonably priced lunch, the price of your food is donated to the targeted charity. If you have a charity that would benefit from the market's generous support, contact Lisa Bouska at 568-6000.



### Getting ready for rainy season

The arrival of fall means the possibility of heavy rains. In sloped areas like Emerald Hills, homeowners need to take extra measures to assure adequate drainage. Inspecting your property now to prevent drainage problems during the upcoming rainy season is important, not just for you, but also for your neighbors; a drainage problem on your property can quickly cascade into a problem for several other homeowners in an especially bad storm.

To prevent slope failures and other damage, keep all drainage devices and systems clear. Make sure your rain gutters are clear of debris, and drainpipes are unobstructed. When inspecting the drainage system on your property, keep the following items in mind:

- Make sure all slopes drain properly and drains are cleared of any debris.
- Check drains along retaining walls, removing overgrown landscaping if necessary.
- Examine the solidity of any earth berms (top edges of slopes which keep water from flowing over the slope) on the property.
- Measure side swales (natural drainage paths directing water around a structure); they should be at least 24 inches from any walls.

Remember, during unusually heavy rainfall, even properly managed drainage systems may not prevent the possibility of damage. **The following are warning signs of a possible slope failure. If you note one or more of these conditions, please have your property inspected by a licensed private civil/structural or geotechnical engineer.**

- Standing water near the top or bottom of the slope.
- Signs of erosion from water running over the slope or other earth face.
- Signs of earth movement (bulges, or excess soil accumulating at the bottom of the slope).
- Excess soil and/or debris resting in drainage channels or culverts.
- Tilting of walls or fences on or near the slope.
- Water flowing or seeping out of the slope or at the bottom of the slope.
- Cracks or slumping of ground near the top or bottom of the slope.
- Broken irrigation lines above or on the slope.

Be sure to check out your slope and drainage system regularly.

### CERT NEWS: Earthquake Exercise Oct 26

There is going to be an Earthquake Exercise on Friday, October 26. This would be a good opportunity for all of the Emerald Hills CERT people to do some training together. Non-CERT folks are welcome to participate too. E-mail Vicky Tuite if you are interested in participating. Please put CERT in the email header. vtuite@yahoo.com

### San Mateo County Automated Alert System

You can get emails or text messages on your cell phone regarding developing situations, everything from expected high winds to major traffic delays.

To sign up go to:

<http://www.smcalert.info/index.php?CCheck=1>

### How to Prevent Tree Failure during Storms

There are a few positive things that can be done with trees to help them get through the winter months. Start by having your trees inspected by someone that has documented knowledge and experience; a certified arborist has had ongoing training and education that keeps him/her current on how trees respond in different situations and able to provide an unbiased evaluation of what needs to be accomplished. (continued on p. 4)

### October is "Energy Awareness Month"

Contribute to energy efficiency by replacing an incandescent light bulb with a compact fluorescent light (CFL) bulb. CFL bulbs consume 75% less energy than conventional light bulbs, and last up to 10 times longer! A 25W CFL bulb is equivalent in brightness to a 100W standard bulb.



**The EHHA board of directors will be giving away 150 CFL bulbs (one per household) on Saturday, October 13, courtesy of PG&E and Redwood City.** We'll be outside the Emerald Market at noon, and stay as long as the supply lasts. If every home in the U.S. replaced just one incandescent bulb with a CFL, in one year we'd save enough energy to light more than 3 million homes and prevent greenhouse gas emissions equivalent to 800,000 cars. So plan your grocery shopping for this Saturday, and get your free bulb!

**How to Prevent Tree Failure during Storms**  
(continued from p. 3)

You should have this done well before the winter season arrives. Trees should be properly pruned using the principles of tree care developed and standardized by the International Society of Arboriculture. Some of the most widespread pruning techniques, such as topping and lion’s tailing, damage trees and create problems by changing the trees natural structural integrity, causing real hazards during winter storms. In an effort to minimize this problem, a tree needs to be properly thinned, allowing the wind to pass through the tree canopy with less resistance, minimizing damage to the tree. The thinning should involve no more than twenty-five percent of the living foliage with the interior foliage left intact.

Source: [www.arboristonsite.com](http://www.arboristonsite.com)

The EHHA Board holds its monthly meetings in the conference room (lower level) of the new Woodside Fire Station at Jefferson and Wilmington. Meetings are open to the community, and residents are invited to speak for 2 minutes on issues of **interest**. The meeting schedule is available on our web site. Thanks to Fire Chief Muela and the fire station staff for their support and use of their facility.

**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](mailto: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**

Adriana Botto	368-5678	Secretary
Carolyn Chaney	364-5547	Newsletter Ed
Steve Harper	368-4254	
Steve Hill	361-1567	President
Lee Lukehart	366-5335	Treasurer
Michael Mangini	365-4449	Vice President
Cheryl McGovern	862-8288	
Milo Medin	363-8404	

**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