

Emerald Hills Homeowners Association, Inc.
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www.emeraldhills.org

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Emerald Hills Homeowners Association Newsletter
May 23, 2008

New Board Elected at EHHA Annual Member Meeting

At the Annual Member Meeting of the Emerald Hills Homeowners Association, held on March 27, 2008, seven new members were elected to the Association Board of Directors (*See "A New Board and a Promise for Renewal"*). The evening meeting was one of best-attended in recent memory, with over 300 residents signing in to cast ballots and listen to speakers from the County. Prior to the election of new Board members, residents heard from James Porter, Director of Public Works, who received the Dirty Dozen Questionnaire and reported on the budget priorities for road repair for the upcoming year, and Steve Monowitz, Director of Long Term Planning, who gave an update on the status of the recent Emerald Hills Zoning and Design Review Survey and a brief description of the upcoming community meetings surrounding the watershed protection issue in San Mateo County. After candidate statements were made, and while ballots were being counted, a discussion forum on current community issues was held demonstrating an outstanding level of engagement from the residents in attendance.

After results were announced, outgoing members of the Board were acknowledged for their service to the Association. Retiring from the Board this year are Carolyn Chaney, Amy French, Steve Harper, Steve Hill, Lee Lukehart, Cheryl McGovern, and Milo Medin. We applaud all these fine people for the service they have given to the community. Special note goes to Steve Harper who volunteered an extraordinary 16 years of service to the Board, spearheaded the annual tree giveaway, and was instrumental in the placement of the Emerald Hills stone markers.

A New Board and a Promise for Renewal

The new Board is comprised of the following individuals: Michael Mangini (President), Tom Brouchoud (Vice President), Tim Farrar (Treasurer), Adriana Botto (Secretary), Joe Foraker, Frank Fraone, Carla Rayacich, Mike Sherman, and Marline Underwood. These are your neighbors who have collectively promised to make the changes that you want and to involve you more directly in the issues that affect our community. Toward that end, the Board will be holding an organizational retreat to reevaluate the Association's identity and purpose, to identify goals for the year, and to assign tasks to achieve those goals.

In the meantime, the Board is implementing policies that will ensure Association transparency and community inclusiveness by committing to actively communicate with and solicit opinions of every resident prior to making any recommendation to government. In most cases, the Board will lobby government to sponsor community meetings and surveys rather than conducting its own. In this way, the information received by the County will be more representative, more credible, and more accurate. The upcoming meeting on June 5, 2008 at Clifford School on the watershed issue is the first such meeting the Board has helped to arrange.

The new Board feels that even though they were elected by a majority of those residents who attended the Annual Meeting, they cannot make the assumption that they have a mandate to make decisions for the almost 1,800 households in Emerald Hills. What the Board can do, and is already doing, is to ensure that you are kept current on the issues which could affect you and work to make sure that the County reaches out to you, and provides you, with local forums to discuss these issues with your government representatives. The Board feels that lobbying County government to reach out and hear from you directly is the best way your Association can serve your interests.

Survey on Zoning and Design Review An Update

The San Mateo County Planning and Building Department mailed its community opinion survey to all Emerald Hills property owners in March. The Department has also promised to hold follow-up meetings to discuss the results of the survey and next steps.

Depending on the outcome of the assessment, the Planning and Building Department may consider amendments to the regulations, in consultation with the community. Any proposed changes to the current regulations will need to be reviewed and approved by

the Planning Commission and Board of Supervisors before taking effect.

If you have questions or comments regarding the status of the survey or community meetings, please feel free to contact William Gibson, Staff Planner, at (650) 363-1816 or wgibson@co.sanmateo.ca.us or Steve Monowitz, Long Range Planning Services Manager, at (650) 363-1855 or via email at smonowitz@co.sanmateo.ca.us, both of the Planning and Building Department.

Save the Date! Watershed Ordinance Meeting at Clifford School

June 5, 2008



San Mateo County is inviting property owners in Emerald Hills to attend a meeting at Clifford School Auditorium, 225 Clifford Avenue, Redwood City, on Thursday, June 5, 2008 at 7:00 pm to participate in the development of recommendations to address watershed protection issues in the unincorporated areas of San Mateo County, including a potential zoning ordinance.

If you own property with a **10% SLOPE OR GREATER** or if your property is near **ANY creek or stream**, the recommendations coming out of this meeting could result in new regulations that will affect you!

So plan to attend, learn about the issues involved, and tell the County government what you think.

Let the Good Times Roll!

An Association Sponsored Community Picnic

One of the promises made by each and every newly elected Board member was to help bring the Emerald Hills community together.

We think one of the best ways to do that is to throw a PARTY!

So, at the end of this summer (the exact date and location TBD), your Association will sponsor an Emerald Hills Community Picnic where we can all kick back, introduce ourselves to each other, and meet the great friends and neighbors that make up our extraordinary community.



Think sun, BBQ, water events, children, relaxing beverages, and an all-around good time. So watch future Association newsletters and the EHHA website for more details as the planning progresses. It's going to be lots of fun!

2008 "Dirty Dozen" Questionnaire
The Results

At the Annual Member Meeting on March 27, 2008, the Board asked Members to respond to its Dirty Dozen Questionnaire. We asked you to tell us about the most dangerous places on our Emerald Hills roads and many of you responded. The common thread on almost every response received was speed. Vehicles driven in excess of the posted speed limit, combined with our rural, narrow, and/or hillside roadways (most without sidewalks and many with blind curves), contribute to unsafe roads.



Did you know that the Residential Speed Control Devices Program (RCSD) aims to curb speeding habits in residential neighborhoods? The RCSD program was developed by the Department of Public Works working with the California Highway Patrol and community members to help motorists obey residential speed limits. The County currently uses physical measures (speed humps and dips) to aid in slowing motorists down, where requested by a neighborhood. However, these measures work best with neighborhood support to keep streets safe. Educating all roadway users to obey all speed laws, share the road and respect the rights of other users, will increase the safety of our neighborhoods.

In addition, Road Operations-Traffic Services of the Department of Public Works is responsible for designing, directing and managing all traffic engineering functions within the County, including placement of signs, traffic stripping, parking zones and maintenance of signals to promote the safe and efficient movement for all modes of transportation throughout the County. For additional information please contact Lisa Ekers, Road Operations Manager, Department of Public Works-Road Services Division, at (650) 363-4103 or lekera@co.sanmateo.ca.us.



Contact the 2008-2009 EHHA Board of Directors

Adriana Botto ¹ (*Secretary, Newsletter Editor*) 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

Latest CERT News:
Redwood City's "Are You Ready?"
Disaster Preparedness Overview Class
June 3, 2008

"Are You Ready?" is a quick and informative introduction to disaster preparedness. It's perfect for individuals, families, or groups that don't currently have the time to attend the more-intensive Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) program, and it provides the basics of how to survive after a major emergency. The Redwood City Fire Department (RCFD) provides the training materials and instructors; *you* provide the interest and enthusiasm!

This FREE one-to-two hour class covers the basics of what to do *before, during, and after* a major emergency. You will learn how to:

- **Get informed**
- **Put together a kit**
- **Make a plan**

"Are You Ready?" is a great lead-in to the CERT training program - *class size is limited*, so sign up for an upcoming session now!

Tuesday, June 3, 2008

6:30 - 8:30 pm

Sandpiper Community Center

797 Redwood Shores Parkway

After completing Redwood City's "Are You Ready?" class, you and/or your group may be interested in their CERT training. This 20 hour, six-week training session will engage you with in-depth coverage of topics including Disaster Preparedness, Search and Rescue, Disaster Medicine, Disaster Fire Suppression, Communications, and Command and Control. The CERT series is also *FREE!*

The success of Redwood City's disaster preparedness program depends on you - your neighborhood and community will need your help in the event of disaster! The RCFD urges you to become a part of their citizen-based disaster response team, and to encourage your friends and neighbors to become involved in the "Are You Ready?" and CERT programs.

For more information about "Are You Ready?" presentations or disaster preparedness, please call (650) 780-7400.

Michael Mangini ¹ (*President*) 365-4449
Carla Rayacich ¹ 299-0279
Mike Sherman ² (*Webmaster, Database Mgr.*)..... 544-0896
Marline Underwood ² 224-1214

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

EHHA Needs Your Help

A Message From EHHA Treasurer, Tim Farrar

As many of those who saw the EHHA accounts for 2007 presented at the March 27, 2008 Annual Member Meeting may have realized, the EHHA's finances are in dire straits. Last year the EHHA raised only \$2,600 in donations, compared to roughly \$6,000 in 2005 and 2006, and over \$9,000 in 2004. We have continued to receive only a very modest level of donations (totaling just \$600) during the first five months of 2008. More importantly the Association suffered a net cash outflow of nearly \$4,000 last year, and by the time you receive this newsletter we project that there will be less than \$4,000 in the Association's bank account, which at the current rate will be insufficient to sustain the Association's activities beyond the end of 2008.

This situation puts the whole future of the Association in jeopardy and certainly could make it impossible to fulfill the Board's goals of actively communicating with members about community issues, undertaking activities such as the tree giveaway and increasing member involvement in the Association. Each newsletter costs over \$1,000 to print and mail, while the last tree giveaway cost \$1,200. We would also like to hold a community event this summer, so that you can meet your neighbors in a friendly environment, and this will also cost money.

We have therefore decided to increase the suggested donation to \$35 per household per year and set a target for fundraising this year of \$7,000, representing donations from 200 Members within the community. This will provide funding for four newsletters, the community event and hopefully a tree giveaway later in the year, while ensuring that the Association has enough money in the bank for the Association's future needs.

We know that many of you have ceased donating to the Association in recent years, in many cases at least partly due to the divisiveness which has been a feature of recent EHHA meetings. We now have a completely new Board, all elected in 2007 and 2008, who wish to put these issues behind us, and focus on reaching out to and involving the community in the Association's activities. The Board has adopted several new policies to ensure that this is the case, including a policy on transparency and openness, and welcomes your involvement at our monthly meetings. We have pledged to work to restore your trust in the Association, and hope that you will show your faith in the EHHA and the new Board by making a voluntary donation in the enclosed envelope, to ensure that we can undertake the activities that have been planned for this year.



No "No Left Turn"

Edgewood Road onto Cordilleras Road?

For several years, there has been a restriction on making left turns from the westbound lane of Edgewood Road onto Cordilleras Road (near the junction of Lakeview) to control traffic flow and to increase safety in that area. As a result, traffic was diverted to the intersection of Cordilleras Road and Edgewood Road by the Latter Days Saints Church, creating greatly increased traffic on Cordilleras Road and causing those neighbors to petition the County to install speed bumps. The situation at the problem intersection cannot be changed with a dedicated left-turn lane because of the physical limitations of space.



There may, however, be a possibility of some relief. Prime Sterling of the San Mateo County Department of Public Works (DPW), at the suggestion of Emerald Hills resident David Klausner, has requested that the Association provide **some indication** of resident interest in the lifting the "No Left Turn" restriction during non-rush or off-peak traffic hours.

To assist the County with its request, we have provided a "check the box, tear-off survey" below which you can mail back to us in the envelope provided. In addition, the Association will also provide a mechanism to receive your opinion via the EHHA website. We will collect your input through the month of June and will then forward the results to Prime Sterling of DPW, post them on the EHHA website, and continue to provide you with any updates from the County as they become available.

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- I support lifting the "No Left Turn" restriction at Edgewood and Cordilleras Roads during non-rush/off-peak hours.
 - I support keeping the "No Left Turn" restriction at Edgewood and Cordilleras Roads the way it currently is.
 - I have no opinion regarding this issue.

Name: _____ Phone and email (optional): _____

Address: _____ Emerald Hills, CA 94062