



MEMORANDUM

TO: Mayor and City Council

FROM: June W. Catalano, City Manager

DATE: November 3, 2011

SUBJECT: **WEEKLY UPDATES**

**GENERAL UPDATE**

- Spelling Bee at City Hall – The Foundation for Pleasant Hill Education is holding its third annual Spelling Bee at City Hall this Sunday, November 6<sup>th</sup> from Noon to 5:00 pm. All children in Grades K through 5, from communities in and outside of Pleasant Hill, are welcome to participate. This is a fun and exciting event that gives students a positive experience in an environment that allows them to display the results of their hard work in school. Cash prizes are awarded to the top three spellers in each grade.
- 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration – Staff is now making final preparations for the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration's weekend of events on November 12<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup>. The Gala Dinner takes place at the Contra Costa Country Club on Saturday evening, November 12<sup>th</sup>, beginning at 6:00 pm. Tickets are still on sale (for \$95 each) at the City Hall Finance Counter until 4:00 p.m. on Tuesday, November 8<sup>th</sup>. More than 170 tickets have now been sold and a limited quantity remain.

A City Hall Open House will be held on Sunday, November 13<sup>th</sup> from Noon to 5:00 pm. The Open House will feature:

**Displays:**

- Photographic Exhibit Depicting 50 Years of Pleasant Hill History
- Art Exhibit by the East Bay Artists Guild
- Display of Winning Entries in the Art, Writing and Photography Contests

**Awards Program:**

2:00 – 2:45 Award Presentations to the Winners of the Art, Writing & Photography Contests (in City Council Chambers)

**Music Program:**

12:30 – 1:30 Decky Thornton String Ensemble  
2:00 – 2:45 Devil Mountain Men’s Barbershop Chorus  
3:15 – 4:00 College Park Music Department Wind Ensemble  
4:15 – 5:00 College Park Jazz Band

**Other Entertainment:**

1:00 – 5:00 Face Painting by Hollis  
3:00 – 3:30 Storytime by the Pleasant Hill Library (in Large Community Room)

Tours of City Hall also will be conducted hourly from 1:00 to 4:00 pm. A video presentation of the Rodgers Ranch Oral History Program will be broadcast throughout the day in the Council Chambers. Staff and volunteers will distribute free hotdogs, popcorn, cookies and bottled water. Anyone wishing to volunteer to help with the Open House should contact Linda Stehr at (925) 671-5284 or Wanda Graham at (925) 671-5215. For more information, contact Martin Nelis at (925) 671-5229 or at [mnelis@ci.pleasant-hill.ca.us](mailto:mnelis@ci.pleasant-hill.ca.us).

**PUBLIC WORKS AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT****Building Division**

- Safeway Tenant Improvements (707 Contra Costa Boulevard) – Demolition is complete, and tenant improvements for the underground footings and facade improvements are underway.
- Safeway Fuel Center (701 Contra Costa Boulevard) – The tanks are in and the slab is complete.
- Recreation and Park District – Senior Center (233 Gregory Lane) – Work on the underground utilities, steel and slab are underway.
- Recreation and Park District – Teen Center ( 147 Gregory Lane) – The slab for the Teen Center has been poured.

**Engineering Division**

- Diablo Valley College (DVC) Commons Project – Work continues on the DVC Commons project. Main activities (within the public right of way) this week included: Excavation and off-hauling of approximately 750 cubic yards (approximately 70 loads) of material. The trucks exited DVC via Golf Club Road to Old Quarry Road to Chilpancingo Parkway. The Contractor also was placing approximately 400 cubic yards of concrete (approximately 35 loads) for the foundation of the new South Commons Building. The trucks accessed the site via Taylor Boulevard to Morello

Avenue to the new construction entrance on Viking Drive. Staff is coordinating these activities with the DVC Project Manager and contractor.

- Monument Boulevard/Contra Costa Boulevard Lane Configuration Modification – City staff, in coordination with the striping contractor and the County signal crew, changed the westbound lane configuration at the Contra Costa Boulevard/Monument Boulevard intersection to incorporate a second westbound left-turn lane. The previous westbound lane configuration consisted of a single left-turn lane, two through lanes and two right-turn lanes. The new lane configuration consists of two left-turn lanes, one through lane and two right-turn lanes. The dual left-turn lanes are greatly needed to alleviate the heavy traffic backup currently experienced at the single left-turn lane in the morning, noon and afternoon peak times. Based on recent traffic counts, the single westbound through lane (heading into Downtown) is adequate to handle the traffic volume measured for that movement. A changeable message sign was placed to inform motorists of the change and will be operable for a week while motorists adjust to the new lane configuration.
- City Hall Fountain Renovation and Repairs – The original Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) project to replace and re-tile the entire fountain located outside of the City Council Chambers was placed on hold, and a restoration project was proposed. The City-hired contractor has successfully removed a layer of calcium buildup and exposed the original ceramic tiles. Staff noticed that after draining the area, over 250 tiles were missing or loose (likely caused by the abrasive water condition over the last 20 years). City Maintenance staff had a limited amount of surplus tiles in the original colors from when the fountain was built. The Contractor was directed to restore missing and damaged tiles with matching colors; all other damaged or faded color tiles were not replaced due to the limited supply of original tiles. Additional work underway includes removing old/missing grout and placing new grout. The majority of the work is anticipated to be completed by November 12<sup>th</sup> in anticipation of upcoming City events.
- Encroachment Permits Underway

Private

*Ernie's Plumbing* – Replace sewer lateral at 349 Belva Lane

*Martinez Construction* – Replace sewer lateral at 104 Price Lane

*Owner* – Replace driveway approach at 120 Stewart Circle

Utilities

*AT&T* – Manhole access for fiber placement on Oak Park Boulevard at Douglas Lane

*CCWD* – Repair water main at 115 Hubbard Avenue

## **Maintenance Division**

- **Illegal Dumping** – Staff responded to a resident’s call about illegal dumping of wood on Shirley Drive. Upon arriving, staff found that someone had dumped a full truckload of scrap wood against the curb and gutter. The wood was loaded up and disposed of in the Corporation Yard’s green waste recycling bin.
- **Weeding and Creek Clean Up** – Staff continues the weeding and creek clean up work with the help of Civic Corps. To date, 101 yards of silt, debris, pine needles, weeds and green waste have been cut and removed.
- **Pavement Markings** – Staff worked with the contractors installing the lane change pavement markings on Monument Boulevard at Contra Costa Boulevard. Staff produced new regulatory signs and installed them in conjunction with the restriping.

## **Planning Division**

- **Planning Commission**

No meeting scheduled this week.

- **Zoning Administrator**

No meeting scheduled this week.

- **Architectural Review Commission**

***Zio Fraedo’s Restaurant Wall and Freestanding Sign Presentation (611 Gregory Lane)*** – An informational presentation was made by the owner of Zio Fraedo’s restaurant regarding a proposed new wall sign and a modification to the existing freestanding sign at the restaurant. The restaurant owner was seeking initial feedback from the Commission regarding the proposed plans.

Action: No action taken as this was a presentation.

Appeal Period: None, since no action was taken.

***Black Angus Restaurant Building Color Change (3195 North Main Street)*** – Public hearing to consider approval of an Architectural Review Permit request for an already completed, non-permitted, exterior color change to an existing, stand-alone, restaurant building.

Action: The item was continued to the December 1, 2011 meeting date. No one spoke on the item.

Appeal Period: None, since the item was continued.

***Appeal of the Zoning Administrator Action to Approve the Holmgren Building Addition (522 Ridgeview Court)*** – Public hearing to consider an appeal of the action of the Zoning Administrator to approve an Architectural Review Permit for a 96-square-foot building addition to an existing multi-family residential unit. The addition would occur on the first floor where there is an existing open balcony and would match the existing exterior building appearance, including materials, windows and colors.

Action: The appeal was denied, and the permit was approved with conditions. Nine people spoke on the item.

Appeal Period: The appeal period will end on Monday, November 14<sup>th</sup> at 5:00 p.m.

- **Miscellaneous**

***Minor Permit Activity*** – For the month of October, Planning staff reviewed the following applications: 13 Zoning Permits (3 new business, 4 commercial plan checks, and 6 residential plan checks), 6 Home Occupation Permits, 2 Temporary Sign Permits, 1 Tree Removal Permit and 2 Special Event Permits.