



MEMORANDUM

TO: Mayor and City Council
FROM: June W. Catalano, City Manager
DATE: July 22, 2010
SUBJECT: **WEEKLY UPDATES**

GENERAL UPDATE

- First Annual Blues & Brews Festival 2010 – The Blues & Brews festival takes place this Saturday (July 24th) at Pleasant Hill Park from 11:00 am to 6:00 pm. This event is co-sponsored by Pleasant Hill Recreation & Park District and the Pleasant Hill Chamber of Commerce, and proceeds will benefit the new Teen Center. Tickets, priced at \$40 for tastings, may be purchased at the Chamber of Commerce or online at <http://www.pleasanthillchamber.com/bluesandbrews>. Five bands will perform live on stage, including the Tommy Castro Band.
- Summer Concerts by the Lake Series – The concerts continue this weekend (on Sunday from 6:00 to 8:00 pm by the lake at City Hall) with the Bell Brothers country rock band. Food will be provided by Outback Steakhouse and the concert is sponsored by Sheila's Daycare.

HUMAN RESOURCES (HR)

- Job Vacancies – Due to budget constraints, the City's four part-time employees (in the Finance, Human Resources, Police and City Manager's Departments) were laid off effective July 1, 2010. In addition, a recently-vacated Planning Technician position will remain vacant. The duties for each position have been added to the responsibilities assigned to other staff members.

PUBLIC WORKS AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Building Division

- Taco Bell (1700 Contra Costa Boulevard) – A building permit has been issued for the interior and exterior remodel and expansion of the restaurant.

- Dunn-Edwards Paints (555 Contra Costa Boulevard) – A tenant improvement permit has been issued to remodel the space that was previously occupied by Home Fabrics & Rugs.
- California Imaging & Treatment Center (400 Taylor Boulevard) – A tenant improvement permit has been issued for a portion of the building’s first floor (Suite #105).

Engineering Division

- Safeway Foods (707 Contra Costa Boulevard) – The first draft of the Traffic Impact Analysis (TIA) was received for the proposed Safeway grocery store at the former Mervyn’s site. Staff is currently reviewing the TIA and, due to the magnitude of the project, a third party traffic consultant peer review of the TIA is underway.
- State Safe Routes to School Grant Application (Cycle 9) – Oak Park Boulevard/EBMUD Trail Crossing Pedestrian Enhancement Project – A State Safe Routes to School (SR2S) grant application has been submitted requesting \$328,000 in funds for the project, which consists of new sidewalk installation and existing sidewalk repair along the south side of Oak Park Boulevard (EBMUD Trail crossing to signalized intersection at Monticello Avenue), installation of a new in-pavement flasher/LED beacon, new pavement striping and high-visibility signage. The project will be designed to enhance the visibility of the trail crossing, and to provide Pleasant Hill Middle School students an alternate path of travel (along the south side of Oak Park Boulevard) to access the school site. Caltrans plans to release the award results for the State-wide competitive grant process by December 2010. SR2S funding for this project will supplement the scope and funds currently allocated in the approved Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) budget for trail crossings.
- Diablo Valley College (DVC) Soccer Field Restoration Project – An encroachment permit has been issued to Suarez and Munoz Construction (DVC’s contractor) to access the project site on the east side of the campus from Viking Drive. All construction traffic will enter/exit the site from Viking Drive via the Flood Control District’s access road, and access will be limited to the hours of 8:30 am to 4:00 pm. Conditions of the encroachment permit require noticing all abutting neighbors along the construction route, flaggers for all construction traffic entering/exiting the site, and obtaining a permit from the Flood Control District for use of their access road. Work is expected to begin July 26th and be completed in advance of the fall school session. No construction traffic will be allowed in front of College Park High School at any time.
- Encroachment Permits

Private

Harry Clark Plumbing & Heating, Inc. – Replace sewer lateral at 323 Strand Avenue

General Drainworks, Inc. – Replace sewer lateral at 35 Santa Monica Drive

Utilities

PG&E – Replace utility pole at 1035 Hook Avenue

PG&E – Replace utility pole at 240 and 260 Keats Circle

Maintenance Division

- **Broken Tree Branch** – Maintenance staff responded to an emergency call from Police Department staff on Friday evening that a large tree branch had fallen and was blocking a portion of Gregory Lane and the public sidewalk. The branch of the privately-owned large Eucalyptus tree had apparently broken away from the main trunk due to excessive weight. The branch was cut up and all debris removed from the street and sidewalk, making the area safe for vehicles and pedestrians.
- **Concrete Sidewalk Repairs (Downtown)** – A couple of sections of concrete sidewalk within the public right-of-way area along Crescent Drive were removed and replaced. The concrete sidewalk had uplifted due to the growth of tree roots, which were selectively pruned back. Prior to placing the new concrete, a new root barrier was installed to complete the repairs. Similar concrete removal and repairs will occur this summer at other locations along the Crescent Drive downtown area.

Planning Division

- **Planning Commission**

No meeting scheduled this week.

- **Zoning Administrator**

No meeting scheduled this week.

- **Architectural Review Commission**

No meeting scheduled this week.

- **Code Compliance**

Banbridge Place – Staff has completed an abatement of weeds and a dead tree in the front yard of a residence

Farm Animals – Staff became aware that some residents are using goats for cleaning up their backyards where the weeds are high, which is in violation of City codes. Goats were recently removed from a property in the Linda Lane area.

Blondies – After several contacts by staff, the owner of the property at Contra Costa Boulevard and Taylor Boulevard recently cleaned up the property.

Number of Tasks Completed This Week – 81 (includes phone calls, emails, courtesy notices, investigations, site visits, area patrols, internal requests for service, attendance at training sessions and other miscellaneous activities).

- **Miscellaneous**

Recreation & Park District Projects – Staff provided the District with comments on its revised administrative draft Initial Study and Mitigated Negative Declaration. The District has indicated that the document will be finalized this week and then released for public review. Once the District has completed the environmental review process, the City will be able to proceed with the public hearing process for the various individual projects (Senior Center, Winslow Center, Teen Center, Community Center, and Pleasant Oaks Park ball field). The Planning Commission and Architectural Review Commission have already conducted initial study sessions on these projects and provided input to the District, with the exception of the proposed Community Center and Winslow Center projects, which will be scheduled for study sessions in August. City staff will be working closely with District staff to schedule each of the projects for hearings this fall.

Temporary, Portable, Freestanding Signs – Staff worked with the Chamber of Commerce to finalize informational hand-outs and other related documentation needed for review and approval of these temporary retail business signs. The Chamber will be distributing these materials to its members this week. Staff and the Chamber’s Chief Executive Officer will be meeting with DDR this week to discuss implementation of this program in the Downtown area.

Tree Removal Permits –

One Atlas cedar tree was removed at 212 Poshard Street and will be replaced with two 15-gallon native or indigenous trees.

Four trees (a sycamore, two pines and one eucalyptus) to be removed at 334 Strand Avenue will be replaced with two 15-gallon native or indigenous trees due to space considerations on the property.

One Monterey pine tree to be removed at 2285 Morello Avenue will be replaced with two 15-gallon native or indigenous trees.