

# District News

Fall/Winter 2024

Newsletter of  
Pebble Beach  
Community  
Services District



Fire protection and  
emergency medical services

Wastewater collection,  
treatment and recycling

Recycled water storage  
and distribution

Garbage collection,  
disposal, and recycling

Supplemental law  
enforcement



This cute zombie at the District's 2024 Zombie Race preferred donuts to human flesh.

Photos courtesy Chris Johnson

## Zombies on the run!

The District's 10th annual Zombie Race and Emergency Preparedness Fair on October 26 was once again a huge success. It sold out months in advance, with over 1,100 people attending. Zombies raced and romped through the Pebble Beach fire roads showing off their frightening and funny costumes, and everyone enjoyed the food, games, and safety displays. We thank all the amazing volunteers and District firefighters who brought on the fun!

## Less fire risk, more habitat

Pebble Beach Community Services District (PBCSD) continues to strategically conduct vegetation management to reduce fire risk and improve forest health. In a healthy forest ecosystem, naturally occurring fires reduce dead vegetation, release nutrients, and stimulate new growth. In urban/wildland areas like Pebble Beach, fire suppression without vegetation management would lead to a buildup of fuel, contributing to larger fires which are difficult to contain, such as the Morse Fire in 1987 which destroyed 36 homes.

"To reduce fire risk and promote habitat, we use environmental, science-based fuel reduction methods that mimic the natural forces of nature," said PBCSD Fire Captain and Fuel Reduction Manager Greg Leonard. "We work closely with ecologists, foresters, and the Del Monte Forest Open Space Advisory Committee (OSAC) to plan, carry out, and evaluate all projects."

Professional advisers tag native species (an endangered Gowan Cypress was found this year) and determine whether work should be done mechanically or manually. Dead trees are left for nesting cavities, and *(Cont. on page 3)*

## District has new general manager

We are pleased to introduce Nick Becker as the new General Manager of PBCSD. Nick has been at the helm since our previous general manager Mike Niccum retired on June 30, and worked side-by-side with Mike as deputy general manager for two years to ensure a seamless transfer of responsibilities.

Nick has been part of the PBCSD family for over 11 years, first hired as principal engineer, then promoted to district engineer in 2019, taking over management of the maintenance department. As project manager for the District's award-winning Undergrounding Overhead Utilities Program, Nick forged new cooperative relationships in the community and created a model program for other municipalities who want to increase reliability of *(Cont. on page 2)*



**Fuel reduction thins stunted, overcrowded saplings so that remaining trees have room and resources to grow. Removing invasive plants promotes a diverse native understory.**



# Expanded search and rescue team

The Monterey County Urban Search and Rescue (USAR) team has an even higher level of readiness thanks to the recent addition of seven new members from the PBCSD fire department. On the weekend of June 15 alone they responded to three different requests down the coast: a hiker who had fallen off the trail and sustained a head injury, a person stuck below a Big Sur cliff edge, and a victim trapped on an inaccessible beach with the tide coming up.

“Thanks to our new local USAR members, residents and visitors in distress now have more rescuers and resources for quick emergency response, which ultimately will lead to more successful outcomes,” said Battalion Chief Josh Silveira.

USAR members are highly skilled in specialized search and rescue operations including confined space, high-angle rope rescue, flood water, building collapse, trench collapse, and wilderness search and rescue. Regional agency members include Monterey County Regional Fire, North County Fire, Monterey Fire, and now the CAL FIRE San Benito-Monterey Unit, which includes the Pebble Beach fire department.



PBCSD USAR members deploy a technical rope rescue system used to access injured patients on steep slopes.

## PBCSD general manager *(Cont. from front page)*

utilities, prevent widespread power outages, and mitigate fire risk.

Before PBCSD, Nick worked at Monterey County Water Resources Agency, where he managed the Nacimiento Hydroelectric Plant and oversaw operations at both Lake Nacimiento and Lake San Antonio.

“I am deeply honored to have the opportunity to lead this organization and have the support of our highly skilled employees and board of directors,” said Nick. “The District has always been forward-thinking, planning strategically to expand and enhance services based on community need. Thanks to the steadfast vision of our board and unwavering dedication of our staff, we have developed a Class One fire department, a sustainable recycled water supply project, and an unparalleled Undergrounding Overhead Utilities Program—all helping to safeguard the Pebble Beach community and its beautiful environment.

“The fantastic team synergy at the District has fostered many successes,” said Nick. “We will continue to build on this solid foundation, to meet present and future challenges, and maintain the highest quality services for residents in the forest.”

### Top plant pick:

**TRY THIS FIRESAFE, DROUGHT-TOLERANT, DEER-RESISTANT PLANT IN YOUR YARD!**



The rainy season is the best time to put in new plants! The hollyleaf redberry, *Rhamnus ilicifolia*, is an attractive 6- to 10-foot-tall evergreen shrub with leathery serrated leaves that repel deer. It needs no supplemental water once established, and prefers

The hollyleaf redberry is one of the tastier wild berries.

well-draining soil or rocky slopes in sun to part shade. Inconspicuous yellow flowers produce brilliant red berries relished by songbirds. The hollyleaf is one of the more palatable wild berries, with a taste of cherry and cinnamon. The plant is also the larval host for the pale swallowtail butterfly.



**Pebble Beach  
Community  
Services District**

PBCSD is a multi-purpose local government voted into existence by Del Monte Forest residents on July 1, 1982.

#### PBCSD administrative office

(831) 373-1274

3101 Forest Lake Road,  
Pebble Beach, CA 93953

PBCSD.org

[tinyurl.com/PBCSD-Facebook](https://tinyurl.com/PBCSD-Facebook)

#### Garbage collection and recycling

GreenWaste Recovery: 920-6707

#### Free 24-hour sewer service: 373-1274

If water is overflowing into your home it is an emergency. Call us immediately, day or night.

#### Fire and medical emergencies

Call 911

#### PBCSD Board of Directors

President	Leo M. Laska
Vice President	Richard B. Gebhart
Director	Jeffery B. Froke, Ph.D
Director	Peter B. McKee
Director	Rick D. Verbanec
General Manager	Nick Becker

## New ladder truck

PBCSD has replaced its aging ladder truck with a new Pierce Enforcer 105-foot aerial ladder truck custom-designed by District fire staff to serve our unique community. A shorter bumper and new detachable waterway system (which moves water to the top of the ladder) allowed us to reduce the height and length of the truck, allowing more access to narrow forest roads. The truck also has more room to carry specialized equipment such as rope systems for cliff rescues, extrication tools for collisions, ventilation equipment, ocean rescue apparatus, medical supplies, and more.

The upgrade is part of the District's 10-year engine rotation cycle which ensures reliable fire and medical rescue services. Our previous ladder truck purchased in 2014 is now a backup vehicle, and our 2004 truck will likely be donated to a fire academy for training. As a regional resource, the truck will also respond within the Cypress and Carmel Highlands Fire Protection Districts, as well as for the community at large.



**AT THE READY** PBCSD accepted delivery of our community's new aerial ladder truck in October, and District firefighters are now outfitting it to respond to any and all emergencies.

## Less fire risk, more habitat *(Cont. from front page)*

care is taken to encourage species such as toyon, manzanita, and native wildflowers and grasses, while removing invasive, flammable, non-native species such as acacia and genista.

“The goal is to remove dead and overly-dense vegetation to stimulate regeneration in the understory, and create a mosaic landscape of native plants that support wildlife,” said consulting forester Alex Birkhofer. “After we treat an area, we see deer, quail, and songbirds moving in to forage almost immediately—it’s really gratifying to see!”



**Native ferns regenerate near Haul Road after fuel reduction allowed sun to penetrate to the forest floor.**

## Protecting homes, and the forest

This year we removed dry, dead vegetation and thinned overgrowth below the Haul Road fuel break to protect homes and evacuation routes, and help prevent a fire from jumping over Highway 68. Fuel reduction on Fire Road 24 hinders a fire from 17-Mile Drive or Pescadero Canyon from spreading uphill into Carmel Woods. In addition, the grazing of our 300 contracted goats reduced flammable vegetation in many inaccessible areas. The total 300 acres of forest we treated this year will help reduce fire intensity and the risk of spread into the canopy, as well as improve forest health.

## Another great recycling event!

Our 17th annual Big Green recycling event on Sept. 14 was a huge success, with 437 vehicles visiting our drive-through drop-off sites. Pebble Beach residents delivered 8.3 tons of household hazardous waste (HHW), 5.74 tons of e-waste, and 796 pounds of medical waste. We thank ReGen Monterey for salvaging 789 pounds of reusable products that will be offered to the public free of charge at their Last Chance Mercantile. We also thank GreenWaste Recovery, Clean Earth Inc., Pebble Beach Company, PBCSD staff, and District fire personnel for their help. Since the event began in 2008, we have collected 271.86 tons of HHW and E-Waste.



## Be a hometown hero as a CERT volunteer!

The nationwide Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) program provides training in disaster response, fire safety, light search and rescue, team organization, and first aid so that volunteers can provide assistance when professional responders are not immediately available.

Through hands-on practice and realistic drills, volunteers learn how to react safely and effectively in emergency situations to help their families, neighbors, coworkers, and others during and after events like fires, floods, earthquakes, or storms.

CERT members may also search for missing persons, help with crowd or traffic control, set up and staff emergency shelters, or provide information at community events.



**CERT volunteers study basic first aid during an October training.**

CERT basic training is held regularly on three consecutive Saturdays in downtown Monterey. Trainings fill up quickly—right now the next available dates are May 3, 10, and 17. To enroll, please email your full name, age, address, email, and home and cell phone numbers to [training@montereycert.org](mailto:training@montereycert.org).



**Pebble Beach Community Services District**  
3101 Forest Lake Road  
Pebble Beach, CA 93953

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## Winter driving tips

Here are a few important reminders from your local Pebble Beach CHP officers as storm season approaches:

**1. Now is the time to safety check your vehicle**—simple precautions can prevent accidents. Replace deteriorated wiper blades,

inspect tire tread and inflation, make sure the defroster works, check fluids and brake pads, and make sure all your lights are working.

**2. Turn on your low beam headlights when it's raining or foggy.** California law requires headlights anytime windshield wipers are needed.

**3. Slow down.** Speeding shortens reaction time and increases the likelihood of serious injury and death in collisions. Studies shows that speeding typically saves about two minutes of time. Make a conscious commitment to leave earlier and drive slower, especially during inclement weather.

**4. Monitor the weather and avoid driving during storms and wind,** especially on our curvy forest roads where falling trees and power lines are a threat. Increase your distance from other vehicles to allow more time to stop.



## Alert New county alert system

Monterey County

Monterey County is using a new platform for its emergency notifications. The Alert Monterey County system covers the entire county and all municipalities. Once you register you can choose the zip codes you want to monitor, to keep track of family, friends, and travel destinations. If you are already receiving Monterey County alerts on the previous platform, your preferences are already in the new system. *To sign up or update your registration and preferences, please visit [alertmontereycounty.org](http://alertmontereycounty.org). You can also register easily by texting your zip code to 65513 to receive SMS alerts.*

## Pebble Beach safety alert system

Pebble Beach residents can also use the PulsePoint app to receive CAL FIRE alerts from our local PBCSD, Cypress, and Carmel Highlands fire departments. If you haven't already, please download the PulsePoint app and select the type of notifications you wish to receive, such as vegetations fires, evacuations, power outages, storm warnings, traffic collisions, etc.



## Help protect recycling workers



Did you know that batteries cause fires and explosions in our local recycling plant and landfill every week? Batteries should never go in trash or recycling bins. Especially dangerous are lithium ion batteries hidden inside rechargeable products such as remotes, headphones, gaming devices, backup chargers, vape pens, etc. GreenWaste will pick up five of these e-waste items free of charge during a bulky item pickup; please call 920-6707 to schedule. Loose batteries should be sealed in a clear plastic bag and placed on top of your blue recycling cart. Please tape the tops of lithium ion, 9-volt, and 6-volt batteries.



## GreenWaste Holiday Garbage Schedule

There will be a one-day delay on garbage pick-up during the days listed below.

Regular Pick-up	Holiday Pick-up
Thurs., Nov. 28	Fri., Nov. 29
Fri., Nov. 29	Sat., Nov. 30
Wed., Dec. 25	Thurs., Dec. 26
Thurs., Dec. 26	Fri., Dec. 27
Fri., Dec. 27	Sat., Dec. 28
Wed., Jan. 1	Thurs., Jan. 2
Thurs., Jan. 2	Fri., Jan. 3
Fri., Jan. 3	Sat., Jan. 4

## Two ways to recycle your holiday tree



Note: remove the tree stand and all ornaments, lights, tinsel, and decorations. Flocked trees are not accepted.

**1. Curbside pick up January 2 to 15 on your regular collection day (no need to schedule).** Please cut tree into 3-foot lengths or shorter and place curbside. After January 20 you can still dispose of small trees in your yard waste cart. For more information, please call GreenWaste Recovery at 920-6707.

**2. Drop-off through January 31**  
Bring any size tree, no cutting required, to the Pebble Beach Company Corporation Yard located at Lopez and Sunridge Roads.



MIX  
Paper | Supporting responsible forestry  
Printed by a certified Monterey Bay Area Green Business on sustainable and/or recycled stock. Please recycle!