

District News

Spring/Summer 2021

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



WE'LL BE BACK! We look forward to our next Open House Safety Day when we can gather together as a community once again!



No open house this year

We're very sorry to say that, once again, we must cancel our annual open house due to the coronavirus pandemic. We look forward to seeing you when we can gather safely again. We will let you know the date of our next event, which will feature all the fun information booths, demonstrations, kid activities, and fabulous buffet that you have come to expect!

Working together to prevent fires

With last year's devastating River, Dolan, and Carmel Fires still fresh in memory, there is no doubt that keeping our properties lean, clean, and green is more important than ever. By now, everyone living in the Pebble Beach Community Services District (PBCSD)

has received an annual Fire

Inspection Checklist in the mail, and inspectors are visiting properties to ensure adherence to defensible space guidelines.

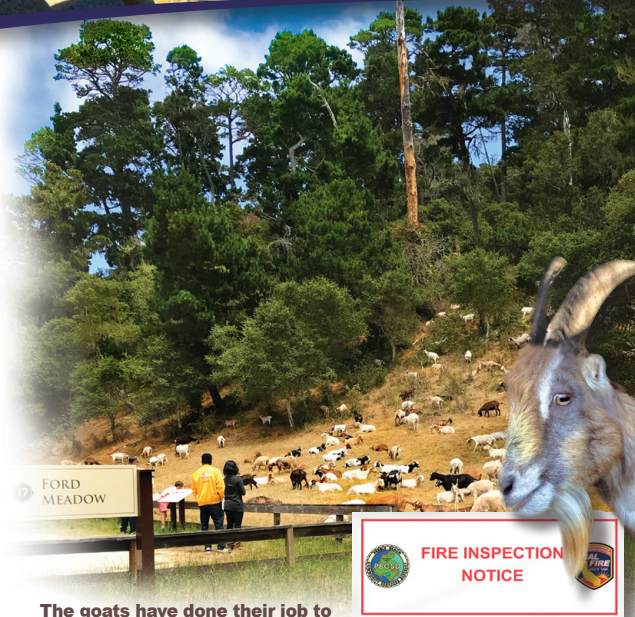
"Property owners are key players in our Fire Defense Plan," said Fire Prevention Captain Tim Jones. "When you remove flammable vegetation, clear leaves from the roof, and maintain year-round defensible space you protect not only your home and family, but also your neighbors and firefighters."

Please complete your checklist as soon as possible. All residences, businesses, and vacant lots will be checked until compliance is achieved. *(Cont. on page 2)*

Phase three utilities undergrounding begins

Construction is underway on PBCSD's Phase Three Undergrounding Overhead Utilities program. This long-term, multi-phase project will underground approximately 12 miles of PG&E, Comcast, and AT&T primary lines in Pebble Beach. The undergrounding benefits all residents by reducing forest-wide power outages during storms, and the risk of fire from falling power lines. Secondary utility lines serving specific homes and neighborhoods will still be susceptible to falling trees, but these outages are usually shorter in duration.

"Since we began undergrounding in 2013, we have developed a strong working relationship with our engineering consultant and utility personnel," said District Engineer Nick Becker. "We have built on *(Cont. on page 3)*



The goats have done their job to prevent fires—and now it's our turn! Please complete your fire inspection checklist ASAP.



Leaving home for awhile?
Check these reminders from Pebble Beach Security:



Don't forget to lock the door to your attached garage.

- Let trusted neighbors know how long you'll be gone, and if any service providers will visit the house while you're away.
- Stop mail and newspaper delivery. Make sure your recycling carts are wheeled back from the curb, and ask someone to pick up any circulars left in your driveway.
- Keep shades drawn and set timer lights to create a pattern of occupancy.
- Cars that remain outside should be locked, with nothing left visible through the windows.
- Unplug your electric garage door opener.
- Perform a final check that all windows and doors are secure, including the door to the attached garage. Make sure outside motion detector lights are on.

Have a safe trip!



**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://www.facebook.com/PBCSD)
[tinyurl.com/PBCSD-Twitter](https://twitter.com/PBCSD)

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

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Welcome new Battalion Chiefs!

PBCSD congratulates our two new Battalion Chiefs, **Josh Silveira** (right) and **Roger Rinehart**, on their recent promotions. Battalion Chief Silveira is now Operations Manager for The Pebble Beach, Cypress, and Carmel Highlands fire districts. As part of our cost-sharing agreement, the three districts share staff and equipment to provide the highest quality, most cost-effective services to residents. Chief Silveira has 19 years experience in all areas of fire service, the last 11



with the Pebble Beach Fire Department. He now oversees large incident response and ensures that all fire programs have the equipment and resources needed to protect the community.

Battalion Chief Roger Rinehart has taken over as Emergency Medical Services Coordinator for both Monterey and San Benito Counties. His 22-year career includes 18 years as a paramedic, as well as extensive experience with technical rescue and wildland fire response. Both Silveira and Rinehart are enthusiastic about using their extensive skills to serve our community.

“Coastal communities require specialty programs like ocean and cliff rescue, and we are dedicated to meeting these special needs,” said Rinehart. “Thanks to our cost-sharing programs, we also have a paramedic on every fire engine to provide immediate life-saving care in an emergency.”

“Very few fire departments in the state can say they have a Class One level of service like Pebble Beach does,” said Silveira. “We are grateful to the PBCSD Board of Directors, as well as the other districts for thinking outside



Starting this year, Defensible Space Inspectors will be entering fire hazard details directly into the District computer from the field, creating a real-time database.

Working together *(Cont. from page 1)*

Fire Defense Plan covers all the bases

Annual inspections are part of PBCSD’s comprehensive Fire Defense Plan, which includes many programs that work together to reduce fire risk in the Del Monte Forest. Over the last two years we’ve spent

approximately \$1 million thinning fire fuel on over 300 acres to protect homes and businesses, and this year we’ll be treating even more acres. Fuel reduction has been completed at all Pebble Beach gates and along main evacuation and access routes. CAL FIRE crews continue to maintain fire roads and remove dry fuel in critical areas. In addition, each year we bring in hundreds of goats to do their important work, munching flammable vegetation on steep hillsides and in other inaccessible areas. The use of sophisticated fuel modeling applications ensures that all these efforts have maximum benefit.

“Living in a forest has inherent fire risk, but our many proactive programs provide an exceptionally high level of protection,” said Captain Jones. “We thank Pebble Beach property owners for their ongoing work to reduce fire fuel on their properties—together we can keep our community safe.”

Pandemic precautions at the firehouse

You might wonder how your Pebble Beach firefighters are keeping themselves and the public safe during the pandemic, especially since they work 72-hour shifts together, sharing dorm space and housekeeping chores on top of responding to emergencies.

“Our routine has changed to include many new safety protocols, but our high-quality service level remains the same,” said Roger Rinehart, Battalion Chief and Emergency Medical Services Coordinator. “By 8 am we’ve taken our temperatures and filled out our symptom questionnaires. Throughout the day we maintain distance, and the only time we aren’t wearing a mask is during an ocean rescue!”

Keeping responders and the public safe

To minimize exposure, there are no multi-company trainings, and the same eight-member crews keep the same three-day shifts. Dormitories are equipped with air purifiers, and staff disinfect the station twice a day. On high-risk medical calls, one responder wears additional protective gear and enters the household alone to assess the patient and bring them outside. Back at the firehouse, vehicles are wiped down and everyone leaves boots and uniforms outside where they are immediately washed and disinfected.

“We are all used to the new routines by now, but it’s still hard not being able to intermix with the public or our families,” said Josh Silveira, Battalion Chief and Operations Manager. “Normally, family could stop by the firehouse to say ‘Hi’ or have dinner when we’re on a three-day shift. . . everyone here is like an uncle to my kids. We all miss that extended family, but we know that precautions are keeping everyone safe until we can see each other again.”



District paramedics wear protective gear and enter residences alone to minimize staff exposure on high-risk medical calls. Shown here are Engineer Garrett Green and Firefighter Paramedic Landon Sunia.

Protecting public health and the environment

As a coastal community, maintaining our wastewater system is a top priority. The District has an extremely low incident of spills due to our high standard of maintenance, which protects human health and our sensitive nearshore ocean habitat, including Carmel Bay, a designated Area of Special Biological Significance.

Our wastewater collection system assessment uses a remote controlled camera to videotape all 80 miles of PBCSD sewer mainline. District maintenance staff analyze the footage for cracks, root intrusion, and potential blockages, recording the exact location on a geographic information system (GIS). This vital data allows the District to prioritize long-range capital projects to prevent spills and overflows, and safeguard our community and environment.

Photo © Erik Lukas/SeeUnderSea



A toppling tree leans against an electrical transformer in the forest after a February 2019 storm.

Photo by Jeff Hobbs

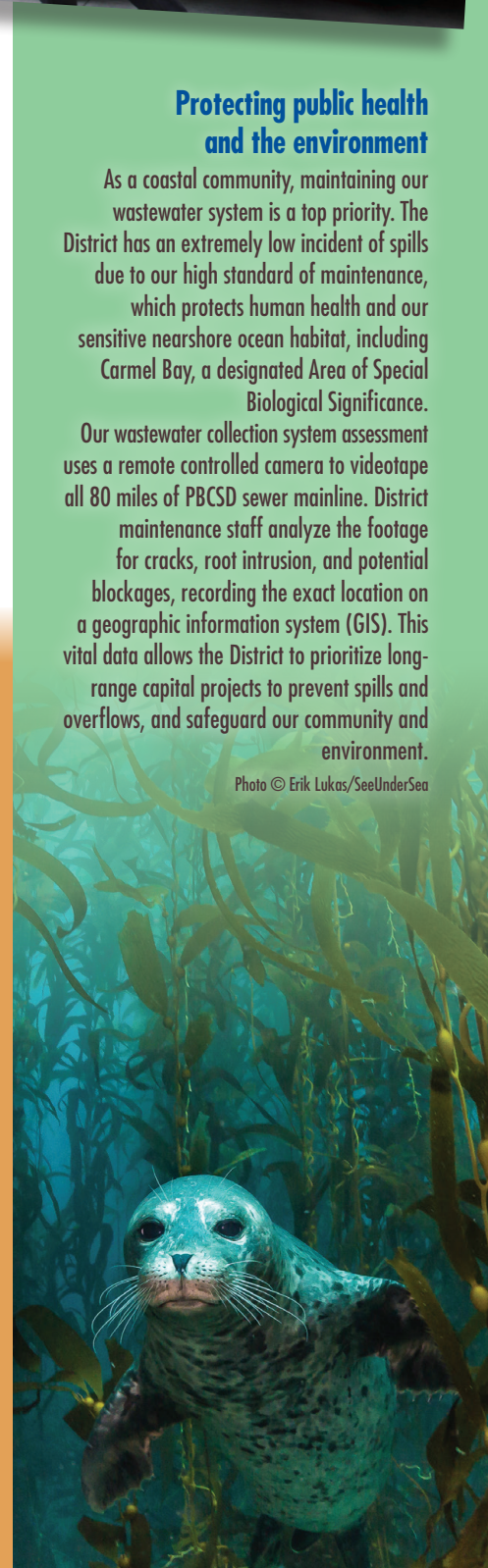
Undergrounding *(Cont. from page 1)*

our experience, and standardized procedures help streamline the process. If all goes well, we anticipate completion in summer 2022.”

Phase Three will underground approximately 2.3 miles of overhead lines, and will join the first two completed phases to create 5.5 miles of continuous underground main utility lines. Approximately half of Phase 3 runs along Forest Lake Road from the intersection of Hawkins Way south to the Peter Hay Golf Course. The remainder is on sections of Ondulado and Drake Roads, the latter being a tree-dense area with a history of power outages. No road closures are planned, but there will be periods of one-lane traffic control.

Once Phase Three is complete, approximately 50 percent of the total 12 miles of

primary electrical and communication lines in the forest will be undergrounded. This highly complex project was recognized as a 2020 Project of the Year by the American Public Works Association, Monterey Bay Chapter, and is serving as a model for other municipalities nationwide who are exploring undergrounding as a way to ensure reliability and enhance fire safety.





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

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Pebble Beach and all municipalities in California should have curbside food waste recycling by next year.

Food scrap recycling is on the way!

Did you know that organic waste makes up half of the contents of landfills, and produces 20 percent of California's methane? This super pollutant is 70 times more potent than carbon dioxide, and is a major contributor to the climate crisis causing devastating fire seasons, extreme drought,

and rising sea levels. While home recyclers are doing a good job recycling organic yard waste, food waste is still the single most prevalent item in landfills.

SB 1383, signed into law in 2016, aims to move food waste out of landfills to slow the climate crisis as quickly as possible. The bill mandates programs to target a 50 percent reduction in organic waste disposal by 2020, and a 75 percent reduction by 2025. In addition, the bill calls for 20 percent of currently disposed edible food to be redirected to programs that feed Californians in need.

To fulfill the mandate, the Monterey Regional Waste Management District (MRWMD), local municipalities, and haulers are working together to launch curbside food waste recycling services for residents and businesses by January 2022. The new program will use the same three-cart system we use now. GreenWaste will be reaching out to customers before the end of the year.

Home composting is still the best

In the landfill, food waste decomposes anaerobically (without oxygen), producing dangerous greenhouse gases. By contrast, composting is an aerobic process which uses oxygen for decomposition, and actually pulls carbon out of the atmosphere. While food waste collection programs are a huge improvement over landfilling, home composting remains the greenest option because it is completely carbon neutral.

If you have room, consider installing a backyard compost bin, which provides free soil amendment to beautify your garden. Worm composting bins can be used indoors or out, and can even fit under your kitchen sink. If you already compost, you'll be happy to know that the new program will accept all kitchen scraps, including hard-to-compost items that don't degrade in our cooler climate such as eggshells, bones, dairy products, and food-soiled paper towels. Regardless of how you compost, it's a vital step we can all take to help slow climate change, along with buying local and purchasing only what we can use.



Amendment from a backyard composter will enrich your garden soil.

How to reduce food waste: 9 tips

An estimated 40 percent of food produced in the United States goes to waste, along with the water, energy, and other resources used to produce it. Try out some of these tips to reduce food waste and lower your carbon footprint:

1. A stale baguette will taste freshly baked if you give it a quick douse under the tap and bake it in the oven for a few minutes.
2. Store leftovers in clear containers so they are readily visible in the fridge, and put older purchases in front to use first.
3. Use your peeler less—the skin of carrots, cucumbers, potatoes, and eggplants are loaded with fiber, vitamins and antioxidants. Fruits also store important nutrients in the skin. Try rubbing the fuzz off a kiwi and eating it like a peach!
4. Almost any food can be frozen if you're not going to use it in time. Some produce needs to be blanched, but tomatoes, onions, celery, and herbs like basil and parsley can be frozen directly for use in soups or stews. Flash freeze berries and cut-up fruit on a cookie sheet, then package to keep pieces separate.
5. If you host a party or buffet, have containers handy so guests can take home leftovers.
6. When dining out, decline items you are not going to eat (such as breakfast toast) or ask if they have half orders. Request a doggie bag.
7. Wash berries right before you eat them so they stay fresh longer.
8. Transfer bagged lettuces, herbs, and greens into a rigid container lined with a paper towel to keep them fresh longer. If you wash them immediately, make sure they're thoroughly dry before going into the fridge.



9. Store ripe avocados in the fridge. Brush cut avocados with oil, or store with an onion wedge to prevent browning.

For more tips visit savethefood.com.



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