

40 Years

District News

Spring/Summer 2022

Newsletter of
Pebble Beach
Community
Services District



Providing services since 1982:

Fire protection and
emergency medical services

Wastewater collection,
treatment, and recycling

Recycled water storage
and distribution

Garbage collection,
disposal, and recycling

Supplemental law
enforcement



Open House postponed

After careful consideration, the PBCSD Board of Directors has decided to once again postpone our annual Safety Day Open House due to pandemic concerns.

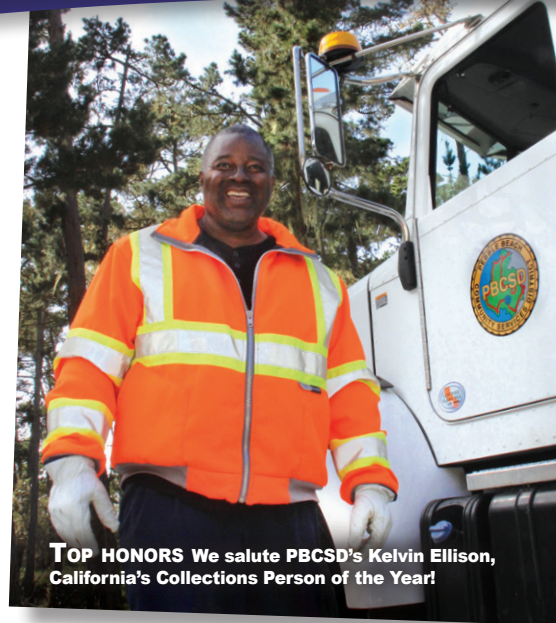
Unfortunately, the density of crowds at this popular event still poses an unacceptable risk for those who are older or have medical conditions. *We look forward to seeing you next year, when we can better ensure the safety of all community members!*

Statewide honors for PBCSD employee

Big congratulations go to PBCSD Maintenance Technician Kelvin Ellison, who was twice-honored this year by the California Water Environment Association (CWEA), the premier wastewater industry association in the state. Kelvin was chosen as Collections Person of the Year for our Monterey Bay section, and then went on to win the California Collections Person of the Year award, beating out some of the largest wastewater districts in the state.

Winners are nominated and chosen by their own peers for this prestigious annual award, which recognizes leadership, innovation, and excellence in collections maintenance, as well as protection of environmental water resources.

“I put my heart into my career so this award means the world to me, especially being chosen by my peers,” said Kelvin, who just marked 27 years with the District. “I stand on the shoulders of those who did this job before me, and now that I’m the oldest here it is a privilege to pass down *(Cont. on page 3)*”



TOP HONORS We salute PBCSD's Kelvin Ellison, California's Collections Person of the Year!

Sewer line replacements start this fall

Starting this fall, PBCSD will begin a multi-year capital improvement project to rehabilitate approximately eight miles of sewer main line. The project will repair or replace specific sections of pipeline in the older Pebble Beach neighborhoods located east of the Monterey Peninsula Country Club, and northeast of the Forest Lake Reservoir; we will also replace manholes as needed.

These neighborhoods contain original 6-inch clay pipelines which are vulnerable to cracking and blockages. Deteriorated sections will be replaced with seamless 8-inch HDPE plastic pipe to increase capacity and prevent root intrusion. The District's recently completed sewer system assessment collected video of main lines via remote control camera, allowing us to prioritize problem areas. Using our geographic information system (GIS), District staff can pinpoint the exact lengths of deteriorating pipeline *(Cont. on page 3)*

Preventing sanitary sewer leaks is especially important in coastal areas like ours, where runoff into storm sewers leads directly to the ocean.

Photo by Peter Monteforte





Check the Pebble Beach weather station at PBCSD.org!

The District recently installed a weather station at Forest Lake Reservoir which provides around-the-clock readings for temperature, wind speed, precipitation, and air pressure. The new station will create an ongoing weather history we can cross-reference

Download the Weather Underground app to access local weather stations via your phone.

with reservoir data to better understand how weather effects recycled water usage, evaporation, and other parameters.

Anyone can access the continually updated weather readings by clicking the link on our homepage at PBCSD.org, or by downloading the Weather Underground app (wunderground.com), which also shows other weather stations at private addresses throughout Pebble Beach, and the world.



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
tinyurl.com/PBCSD-Twitter

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

Big strides in fuel reduction

PBCSD recently completed multiple fuel reduction projects to reduce fire danger. Major improvements include a fire break running from above the Carmel Hill Fire

Station down to Ford Meadow, which will protect homes in Carmel Woods should a fire start in Pescadero Canyon. Workers also cleared fuel along Highway 68 from Shepherds Knoll down to the Ocean Pines condominiums to prevent potential vehicle fires from spreading to the forest and homes.

“We’ve had a few fires in the forest during the past year, but previous fuel reduction kept them from spreading,” said Fuels Reduction Manager John Trenner. “Firefighters were able to extinguish them in minutes.”

Covering all the bases

With the continued drought, we brought in our firefighting goats sooner this year to munch down flammable vegetation. In addition, we partnered with Pebble Beach Company in a large project to remove 28 dead, hazardous trees along 17-Mile Drive. Besides new projects, we maintained previous fuel reduction along fire roads, evacuation routes, and at all Pebble Beach gates. We also removed non-native plants like genista and acacia that contain flammable oils. All work is performed with guidance from the Del Monte Forest Conservancy to preserve habitat and prevent the spread of invasive plants.

“We’ve accomplished a lot thanks to fantastic ongoing support from the District staff and board of directors,” said Trenner. “As summer approaches, we encourage all residents to do their part by completing their Fire Inspection Checklist as soon as possible.”



PBCSD Fuels Reduction Manager John Trenner inspects the new mile-long fire break which will protect the Carmel Woods area.



District has new Assistant Chief

Meet **Mike Meddles, Assistant Fire Chief** for the Pebble Beach, Cypress, and Carmel Highlands Fire Protection Districts. Mike oversees fire prevention, operations, personnel, and training, and assumes command in the absence of Fire Chief Reno DiTullio Jr.

Chief Meddles has 25 years experience in wildland and structural firefighting, fire prevention/law enforcement, and air operations. He began his career as a firefighter for Carmel-by-the-Sea, rising to Fire Captain with the City of Soledad before joining CAL FIRE in 2012. There he served as Air Tanker Base Manager, Emergency Command Center Battalion Chief, Field Battalion Chief, and now Assistant Chief. Mike has deployed as a Strike Team Leader and Division Group Supervisor to numerous major incidents such as the 2022 Colorado Fire, the Carmel and Creek Fires in 2020, as well as many others.

“Returning to the beautiful Monterey Peninsula is something I’m thankful for every day,” said Mike. “It’s an honor to serve here where the partnership of our three districts gives us the resources to provide top-notch service. Thanks to our cost-sharing agreements we are able to greatly reduce fire risk, and provide residents with excellent fire and emergency medical response.”

Don't flush labeling: now it's the law!

For decades, wipes have been marketed as flushable despite the fact that they are plastic products which do not break down in the sewer system, and cause microplastic pollution in oceans and waterways. Since the introduction of wipes, municipalities, wastewater agencies, and consumers have shouldered the burden of billions of dollars in sewer infrastructure damage, home backups, environmental fines, and labor cost to extricate wipes from clogged machinery and pipelines. Treatment plants must filter wipes from the wastewater stream and truck them to the landfill where they should have gone in the first place, creating a large carbon footprint.

Now, thanks to the passage of AB 818, California has the strongest Do Not Flush labeling and public education requirements in the country for manufacturers of baby and adult wipes, cosmetic wipes, and cleaning wipes.



As of July 2022, all wipes manufacturers are required to print Do Not Flush labels on their products.

Toilets aren't trash cans; please put wipes here, so they don't end up here



Help us spread the word

Please flush nothing but "The Three Ps:" pee, poop, and toilet paper! That means no wipes, tampons, facial tissue, paper towels, cat litter, fats, oils, grease—nothing but human waste and toilet paper. Consider buying an inexpensive under-seat bidet to save money on toilet paper, wipes, and plumbing repairs. Together, we can protect the environment and our wastewater system!

Statewide award *(Cont. from page 1)*

what I've learned to my fellow coworkers."

During his many years of service Kelvin has been known for his positive attitude, diligence, and enthusiastic support of his coworkers. The dedication, professionalism, and teamwork of our collections crew are key to the District's stellar record for safety, regulatory compliance, and low incidence of sewer spills. Thanks to them, the District has been a recipient of the CWEA Collection System of the Year award for the Monterey Bay section in 2013 and 2015.

"After 27 years I still love going to work each day to serve the residents of Pebble Beach," said Kelvin. "The maintenance crew here is second to none, and I wouldn't trade working with them for anything!"

Sewer rehab *(Cont. from page 1)*

needing replacement, to keep the project as cost-effective as possible.

We will be using the pipe bursting method for the majority of installation, in which the existing sewer line is broken and expanded at the same time the new pipeline is pulled into place, so there will be minimal trenching and disturbance. PBCSD will notify affected residents well before any construction begins.

The District has already replaced about 20 percent of Pebble Beach sewer main line, targeting areas with chronic problems. Once the new sewer project is complete, approximately one-third of our community's total 80 miles of sewer line will be rehabilitated or replaced.

Meet the Staff
Chris Simmons,
Assistant Engineer

We welcome Chris Simmons to the PBCSD family as our new Assistant Engineer. Chris acts as liaison between our engineering and maintenance



departments to keep the District's wastewater collection and water reclamation systems running efficiently.

Born and raised in Pacific Grove, Chris returned to his home town to start his new position with the District. Most recently, he served as a water resources engineer for Stantec consulting services in their Sacramento office. His experience working on reservoir projects will be invaluable to support the operation of our local Forest Lake Reservoir.

Chris has already developed a map-based system to track the District's sewer line cleaning activities to better manage our 80 miles of main line infrastructure. Our maintenance crew can now input data while out in the field so that information and assessments are always accurate and up-to-date.

"Working at PBCSD is rewarding on so many levels," said Chris. "Everyone supports each other, and it's amazing how much we accomplish. The District staff is a small but mighty team! It's a great feeling to be back in my hometown serving the community. Whether I'm working outside or inside the office, it's a beautiful place to be."

If you have questions about construction projects in the forest, please feel free to call Chris at 647-5609.



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

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Pick up a free food scraps bin at the PBCSD office—available while supplies last!

Curbside composting: four tips for success

As of January 1, residents should put food scraps in their green yard cart for curbside pickup. Community composting is part of California's mandate to slow the climate crisis by moving food waste out of the landfill where it produces methane, a potent greenhouse gas. Below are some best practices to ensure a successful program.

1. Compost all food scraps except for raw meat, liquids, oils, and tea bags

Everything else can go in your yard cart: fruit and vegetable trimmings, bread and grains, loose tea and coffee grounds (coffee filters are OK), plate scrapings, eggshells, seafood, bones, cheese and dairy, spoiled food, etc.

2. Please don't bag your scraps Plastic, paper, and compostable bags are not accepted in the program because they break down too slowly, contaminate the compost, and create operational concerns. These contaminants must be manually removed and transported to the landfill, increasing cost and labor. The same is true for food-soiled paper, and all compostable products such as cups, utensils, and to-go containers—please reuse them or put them in the trash. To keep our community's composting program as cost-effective as possible, please discard only unbagged food scraps directly into your green cart along with your yard trimmings.

3. Keeping it clean Store scraps in a container on your counter and empty it in your yard cart every few days. You can also store scraps in the refrigerator or freezer. Layer food scraps between yard trimmings to help keep your yard cart clean.

4. Home composting is still the best It's easy to compost in your own back yard, and you can still put hard-to-compost items like bones, eggshells, and peanut shells in your yard cart. *For more information on home composting, or the curbside composting program, please visit the Monterey Regional Waste Management District website at mrwmd.org.*



PLEASE DON'T BAG YOUR FOOD SCRAPS
Plastic, compostable, and paper bags are not allowed in your yard cart because they increase cost and cause problems. See #2 for details.



Free seminar Age Well, Drive Smart

**Sunday, August 28,
1:30 - 3:00 pm**
PBCSD Community Room
3101 Forest Lake Drive, Pebble Beach

*Reservations required:
please email office@dmfpo.org*

Learn the keys to driving safer and longer by attending this free workshop conducted by California Highway Patrol. The "Age Well, Drive Smart" class is designed for seniors age 65 and older and includes a driving skills tune-up, rules of the road refresher, and self-assessment tools. The free two-hour class fills up quickly, so please contact Del Monte Forest Property Owners at the email above to reserve your space. Participants will receive a certificate of completion that may lower auto insurance premiums—please check with your provider.



Pebble Beach Bookmobile Schedule!

Visit the Monterey County Free Library bookmobile every first and third Friday of the month, 1-2 pm in the District parking lot, located at 3101 Forest Lake Road. Upcoming dates: May 6, May 20, June 3, June 17. Questions? Please contact Scott Nichols at 831-796-3080.