

District News

Spring/Summer 2020

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



Jackson was the big winner in our annual children's raffle last year, and was happy to show off his official firefighter uniform.

Watch for your invitation to our Open House Safety Day and buffet!

We are making plans for this popular summer event and will set a date once we know the status of shelter-in-place orders.

As always, this annual community get-together will feature a delicious free buffet, educational displays, information to protect your home and family, a bounce house for the kids, and many other activities for young and old alike. Watch your mailbox—we look forward to seeing you there!

PBCSD responds to coronavirus

As we go to press, Monterey County, the State of California, and other areas nationwide are under a shelter-in-place order, and we are all experiencing the upheaval of the COVID-19 crisis. At Pebble Beach Community Services District (PBCSD) our priority has always been the health and welfare of our community and employees. While these are extraordinary times, our mission continues unabated.

“Our decades of experience in emergency response and preparedness has proven us ready to meet challenges as they arise,” said District General Manager Mike Niccum. “We don’t know how long this will last, but we want residents to rest assured that we are continuing to provide all essential services such as fire protection, emergency medical assistance, supplemental law enforcement, garbage and recycling pick-up, and continual monitoring of our wastewater system to protect human health and the environment.” *(Cont. on page 3)*



Your District is continuing to provide all essential services during shelter-in-place orders.



Hometown pride

District lauded for Project of the Year

Your PBCSD's Undergrounding Overhead Utilities program has been honored as recipient of the 2020 Project of the Year Award, given by the American Public Works Association. The Monterey Bay Chapter, which includes Monterey, Santa Cruz, and San Benito Counties, recognized Phase 2 of the undergrounding program in the Emergency Disaster Preparedness category, for its role in mitigating fire risk associated with overhead utility lines. This is not the first time the program has been recognized—Phase 1 received an Award of Merit in 2016.

Started in 2010, the complex, multi-phase program coordinates the underground installation of new electrical and communication distribution systems served by PG&E, AT&T, and Comcast. Besides reducing fire risk, the program also increases service reliability, and reduces forest-wide power outages caused by storms, toppled trees, and falling branches. After last year's tragic wildfires wiped out entire communities, there is a heightened awareness of fire risk in residential areas. As a wildland-urban interface, Pebble Beach has been at the forefront in fire prevention to protect residents and the forest. The District's undergrounding program is serving as a groundbreaking example for other municipalities.

Top plant pick:

TRY THIS FIRESAFE, DEER-RESISTANT NATIVE PLANT IN YOUR YARD!

Our beautiful native evergreen, the Pacific madrone (*Arbutus menziesii*), is prized for its richly colored bark. When mature, thin sheets of the mahogany bark peel away, revealing the satin silver trunk underneath. Be sure you plant our local native madrone, and not the widely promoted non-native European strawberry tree (*Arbutus unedo*). Our Pacific madrone has even more beautiful creamy white flowers, and brighter red berries that are a favorite of local birds. In contrast to the strawberry tree, Pacific madrones do not attract bees and yellow-jackets to entry areas and outdoor living spaces.

Non-native plants degrade the environment, and reduce habitat for indigenous wildlife. Visit the District's firesafe garden at 3101 Forest Lake Road to view plants that safeguard your home and support local ecosystems.



Our native Pacific Madrone, *Arbutus menziesii*



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

We've got your back

Fuel reduction in full swing

In our continuing efforts to reduce fire danger, the District completed fuel reduction projects on an impressive 300 acres last year, including all five Pebble Beach entrance gates, and all main evacuation routes in and out of the forest. After 10 years of effort, we completed the Haul Road Fuel Reduction Project, thinning the dense, flammable regrowth from the Morse Fire of 1987. This year we will reinforce the Haul Road fuel break with work in the area of Del Ciervo Road to Midwood Drive, one of five 2020 projects with a goal of reducing fuel on approximately another 300 acres.

A first priority area is from the Morse Gate up the hill to the Highway 68 overpass, and down toward Pacific Grove to create a buffer zone between the highway and forest. Other project areas include 17-Mile Drive from Ocean Pines to Shepherds Knoll between Highway 68 and Monterey, Sunridge to Ronda Road and on to the Pebble Beach Corporation Yard, and Congress Road from Morse Gate to Lopez Road. By mid-May, our firefighting goats will be munching flammable vegetation in Pescadero Canyon and many other critical areas, and contractors and CAL FIRE hand crews will be mowing and masticating brush to help protect homes and property.

“Fuel reduction is ongoing. We triage areas of extreme fire danger and then strengthen that coverage with corridors between projects to increase safety,” said District Fire Prevention Chief Mark Mondragon. “We strive to maximize fire protection and protect native plants and habitat, while at the same time maintaining past projects so that regrowth cannot recreate fire danger.”

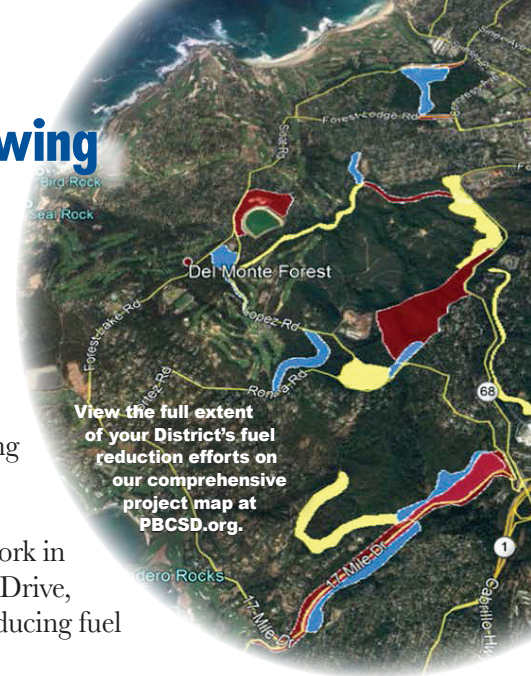


Meet your new Battalion Chief

We welcome Peninsula Operations Battalion Chief, **Paul Gaines**, who oversees the Pebble Beach, Cypress, and Carmel Highlands Fire Protection Districts.

Paul began his career in 1985 as a fire crew member with the California Conservation Corps, and soon after became a helicopter crew member with the California Department of Forestry. During his 29-year career, Paul has served as a CAL FIRE Strike Team Leader and Division Supervisor during the Camp, Basin Complex, and Tubbs Fires, to name a few. He also has many years experience as an engineer fighting both wildland and structural fires. His experience protecting numerous communities with wildland interface like Pebble Beach make him uniquely qualified for the position. So what is Paul's favorite part of the job?

“Believe it or not, my favorite duty is giving operations reports—telling the PBCSD board what their fire department has accomplished every month,” said Paul. “When I can stand up there and tell them that we've saved four people with the new rescue jet ski they bought us, well, it's just wonderful. . . . It's an honor to serve here in Pebble Beach where we are so well-supported to perform every aspect of our jobs. Financially, morally, ethically . . . the support from the board and the community is just incredible.”



View the full extent of your District's fuel reduction efforts on our comprehensive project map at PBCSD.org.

Reclamation upgrades completed

Last year the District successfully completed a renovation of the Forest Lake Reservoir pump station, which serves our recycled water distribution system. This included installation of a third pump capable of variable speed control, which allows our automated system to adjust to real-time demand. The additional pump will increase efficiency and reliability, and act as a fail-safe during maintenance and emergencies.

After 27 years of service, the Poppy Hills tank was taken out of service for renovation in December 2019. The 2.5 million gallon steel structure needed repairs and recoating of interior and exterior surfaces to extend its useful life. The timing of the project was critical, with work completed during winter months when system demands are at a minimum. Due to our diligent maintenance and rehabilitation program, we have met our deadlines and the tank will provide many years of service before another renovation is needed.

With a capacity of 115 million gallons or 353 acre feet, the Forest Lake Reservoir enables golf courses to irrigate with recycled water throughout the entire year. This reduces drawdown on the Carmel River, saves potable water, and decreases discharge of treated water into Carmel Bay, a Designated Area of Special Biological Significance—all at no cost to the public. Paid for largely by the golf courses, the reclamation program began in 1994 thanks to a public-private partnership between PBCSD, Pebble Beach Company, the Carmel Area Wastewater District, and the Monterey Peninsula Water Management District.



The newly renovated Poppy Hills storage tank (shown above) is part of the District's recycled water distribution system, which also includes Forest Lake Reservoir and seven miles of pipeline.



Are your emergency contacts up to date?

Do you have a new phone number or email address? Please make sure all your contact information is up to date in the District's CodeRED system so we can contact you in case of fires, storms, downed power lines, evacuations, boil water notices, and other vital community alerts.

The system delivers critical communications from the District to land lines, email addresses, Telecommunications Devices for the Deaf, and cell phones using voice and text messaging. Cloud-based CodeRED has the highest delivery speeds in the industry, as well as internet mapping which allows precise targeting of affected areas. It can save lives and property during a natural disaster or other emergency.

Download the free CodeRED Mobile Alert app to get regional alerts when you are traveling away from home. You can control the types of alerts received such as National Weather Service warnings, public safety communications, Amber alerts, etc.

Visit PBCSD.org to register, or contact Fire Captain Jennifer Valdez at 375-9644, or Jennifer.Valdez@fire.ca.gov.

District responds *(Cont. from front page)*

Sheltering in place is essential to slow the spread of the virus so that our healthcare system is not overwhelmed all at once. Slowing the spread (also known as “flattening the curve”) of COVID-19 by reducing opportunities for transmission will save lives by giving fire and law enforcement personnel, hospitals, doctors, and vaccine-manufacturers time to respond and prepare.

Adults over 65 years old and people with chronic conditions such as heart disease, lung disease, diabetes, cancer, and hypertension are at higher risk for more serious illness. They should take extra precautions to stay home and distance themselves from others. If you are in a higher risk group, consider getting food, medicines, and others essentials delivered to your home. If you think you have symptoms of the virus such as fever, cough, or difficulty breathing, call your healthcare provider first for advice before leaving the house.

As a community we have weathered many storms, fires, and other emergencies over the years. Family, friends, and neighbors can support each other at a distance through phoning, video chat, and social media. If you have an elderly neighbor, consider offering to pick up groceries and other essential items to leave outside their door. Meals On Wheels is delivering food based on need, and may require additional volunteers; please call 375-4454.

For information on COVID-19 and available local services dial 211, the United Way Monterey County assistance line. These online resources are also helpful: CDC.gov, the Monterey County Health Department website, and PBCSD.org for your local community updates.



Neighbors are supporting each other by consolidating errands or picking up groceries for elderly in the community.



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

Presorted Standard
 U.S. Postage
PAID
 Pebble Beach, CA
 Permit No. 5



Download your new recycling guide at PBCSD.org

The Monterey Regional Waste Management District's new *2020 Guide to Recycling and Waste Reduction* is now available at PBCSD.org, as well as a quick reference guide you can put on your fridge. We will have print copies available at the District office once shelter-in-place orders are lifted. The whatgoeswhere.info website and *What Goes Where* app have also been updated.

Remember the top 4—and when in doubt, leave it out

Recycling can be confusing, but it is more important than ever to keep non-recyclable items out of your cart so we can lower contamination rates, keep materials marketable, and protect workers and equipment from harm. If you can't look up an item you're unsure about, it's best to leave it out and stick to the top four recyclables:

1. Aluminum and metal containers

Single-use trays, pie plates, metal food containers, pet food cans, empty spray aerosol cans, etc. Please remove food residue. *NOTE: propane bottles and compressed gas cylinders are dangerous and can harm workers. Never put them inside your recycling or trash cart!*

2. Glass bottles and jars

Scrape out jars with a spatula. Broken glassware, windows, and mirrors go in the trash.

3. Plastic containers with the #1, #2, and #5 recycling symbols only

Clear clam shells and beverage, food, and product containers from water, detergent, shampoo, dairy, etc. *NOTE: black plastic food containers from takeout, salads, roasted chicken, etc. contaminate the waste stream—reuse them or put in the trash.*

4. Clean paper and cardboard

Flattened boxes, newspaper, magazines, envelopes (non-padded only), softcover books, etc. Remove packaging from boxes.

Please check the *What Goes Where* app, whatgoeswhere.info, or call GreenWaste Recovery at 920-6707 for more information.

Printed by a certified Monterey Bay Area Green Business on sustainable and/or recycled stock with vegetable-based inks. Please recycle!



Please—don't flush wipes or paper towels!

- Despite package claims, wipes are not flushable. Paper towels/wipes/rags cause sewage spills and home backups—please put them in the trash.
- Did you know: at your treatment plant, staff spends 24-32 labor hours every week dismantling pumps to remove entangled wipes, so they can be transported to the landfill where they belong?

- To protect your home, the environment, and our community's sewage treatment system, flush nothing but human waste and toilet paper.

Green up your bathroom with a bidet

Simple bidets are inexpensive and easily attach beneath your existing toilet seat. Luxury bidet toilet seats provide heat, spray modes, and air drying. Both offer superior, hands-free cleansing:



- Cost saving, one time purchase which is healthier and leaves no chemical residue
- Helps prevent sewage spills and backups into homes
- Uses far less water than the manufacture of wipes or toilet paper
- No microplastic pollution which harms marine life
- Much smaller carbon footprint
- Trees will thank you—and so do we!

Yes



Thank you for helping us protect human health, the environment, and our community's wastewater system!