

City Newsletter

CITY OF HERCULES, P.O. BOX 156, HERCULES, CALIFORNIA 94547

This is the first of what we hope will be a long series of newsletters to supplement other media coverage of what is going on in the City that you should know about. We hope you will give us your comments and suggestions. You can start by suggesting a name for the Newsletter.



TO HERCULES — WITH LOVE

The Pacific Refining Company in Hercules is turning over to the City its 1% sales tax billed for fuel oil produced at the plant. A check in the amount of \$500,000.00 was deposited to the City's account last week, representing little more than one calendar quarter's income, which may reach as much as 2 million dollars a year. The Company wanted to demonstrate their desire to be a good neighbor and to contribute significantly to the development of the community.

The gesture was so unusual that it received widespread coverage in the press, wire services, radio and T.V. and was the subject of a segment on NBC's "Today" show on March 1.

The new-found money can be used for any municipal purpose including the reduction of City property taxes, improving parks, constructing public buildings, paying for new programs. The City Council will begin to weigh priorities and needs in connection with the budget process which begins in May.

CABLE TV — GETTING CLOSER!

Applications for a Cable TV franchise will be received by the City Council on March 8. So far, it appears that there will be three submittals from private operators. At the same time, the Council will receive a report on the feasibility of the City building and operating a system as a municipal enterprise.

All applicants have been asked to propose 20 channel, two-way non-voice capability with at least one "public access" channel for local origination broadcasting. This would make available to the viewer the broadest possible spectrum of available channels plus future capability for educational and informational programming by local groups. In addition, two-way non-voice facilities makes possible polling public opinion on local issues and other potentialities of the electronic age.

Residents are advised that FCC regulations require certain submittals to that Federal Agency which may require, from the day of issue of the franchise, six to nine months to process. Efforts will be made to expedite the procedures but we are probably nine months to a year away from full cable service.

COUNCIL MEETS WITH SOLONS

The City Council has planned a series of meetings with County, State and Federal representatives - County Supervisor Nancy Fahden, Assemblyman John Knox, State Senator Nejedly, Representative George Miller, Jr. and Senators Hayakawa and Cranston.

Among topics for discussion are the improvement of the width and alignment of State Route 4 (Franklin Canyon Road) to eliminate some of the hazards on this dangerous stretch of road. A preliminary meetings with State highway officials was held by City and County staff members on March 3.

The Council also wants to talk to State and Federal representatives about the growth inhibiting regulations of State and Federal agencies which impair Hercules' efforts to finance needed public improvements such as wastewater treatment and disposal.

The meetings are to be held over the next several weeks.

SCHOOL AND PARK TO BE CONSTRUCTED

The Richmond Unified School District announced plans to construct an elementary school on the site on Lupine near Violet Road. The main building will contain cafeteria facilities and a large meeting room. The City is moving ahead with plans to construct a neighborhood park adjacent to the school which will contain tennis courts, tot-lot, ball field, and a multi-purpose play area. Landscaping and turfing will be postponed, however, until the end of the water emergency.

The school is scheduled for opening in September, 1977 and the principal elements of the park by the end of this year.

TUESDAY IS VOTING DAY!

Tuesday, March 8, is the day Hercules' voters go to the polls to vote for a City Councilman and to fill vacancies on the Richmond Unified School District Board. The Hercules polling place is at 157 Lotus Court. Be sure to exercise your citizenship and vote. The polling place will be open until 8:00 o'clock.

HOMEOWNERS ORGANIZE

Hercules homeowners are organizing an Architectural Control Committee as required by the Covenants, Conditions and Restrictions accepted by every purchaser of a home in Hercules. The Committee will be made up of bona-fide residents and will have no connection with either the developer of the City but will work closely with both. More information will be coming shortly directly from the Committee.



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WATER CRISIS HITS

The water emergency is real and potentially dangerous - but we can all live with it if we follow the sensible advice of the East Bay Municipal Utility District. A pamphlet was mailed to water users last week setting forth some of the things everyone can do to conserve water.

Experts say that the shortage is going to get worse before it gets better, so it's well to develop water saving habits now. The City is working with your Homeowners' Association to distribute plastic bottles for insertion in toilet tanks to displace flush water and flow-reducers for faucets and showerheads. They'll be available as long as the supply lasts. The Association will ask for a donation of \$1.10 to cover the Association's future mailing costs and other expenses.

Anticipating the diminution of natural resources, the Hercules City Council enacted an ordinance last November requiring all residences, commercial and office establishments and industries built after January 1, 1977 to build in water con-

servation devices. The Council will be studying ways to conserve other resources such as gas and electric power.

All street landscaping will be hand-watered only.

HOUSING IMPACT STUDIED

The City Council has authorized the firm of Economics Research to conduct a telephone survey of residents of Hercules. The survey will help measure environmental and other impacts of new housing in the City and will help in future planning.

All responses will be held in confidence by Economics Research and will not be coded for any future use.

The calls will be made during the seven days of March beginning March 2. Your cooperation will be appreciated.

**COUNCIL MEETS THE SECOND TUESDAY
OF THE MONTH — 8:00 PM
CITY HALL, RAILROAD STREET
HERCULES**