

City Newsletter

CITY OF HERCULES, P.O. BOX 156

HERCULES, CALIFORNIA 94547

PHONE: 758-4880



OCTOBER 1, 1978

THE MAYOR'S CORNER

I am pleased to have this opportunity to address the residents through the Hercules Newsletter. The Council certainly has appreciated attendance and comments by residents at the Council meetings. However, I feel that more communication is needed. Therefore, the Council will in the near future discuss the possibilities of having "Town Meetings" where residents of Hercules can speak to any issue they wish. The "Town Meetings" will be a means by which the Council and residents can interact on city problems. This is not always possible at the regular Council Meetings where an agenda is followed. I am positive that every citizen is concerned with the "explosive" nature of our growth in Hercules, and the concerns over what your Council and City Staff are doing in the way of services to keep up with the needs of such a dynamic situation. We'd like to hear from you.

I would like to reflect on the achievements of your Council since the first of the year and what you can expect before the year's over. This year saw the establishment of our own Police force with innovations in dress standards, traffic standards, and the overall human relations aspects of police work. The Council is very pleased with the success of our Police Department in our City. We are especially proud of the dramatic decrease in the burglary rate. Before July 1 when the Hercules Police force became active, there were 18 to 30 burglaries a month. Since July 1 there has been one burglary and 3 attempts. A great record.

This year also saw the establishment of bus service known as West CAT and the introduction of a supervised recreation program under the Coordinator of Leisure Services. This is also the year Hercules will have its first neighborhood park dedication (October 21) and Monday night football fans will certainly appreciate the introduction of Cable T.V. which will be in service during the month of October.

In addition, to better serve the citizens of Hercules, we have arranged to have the entire city protected by the Rodeo Fire Department as of January 1, 1979. Now part of the City is served by the Rodeo Fire Department and part by the Pinole Fire Department.

I sincerely hope that the last three months of this year are as productive as the first nine months. None of the accomplishments of the City can be formulated and successful without the support of the Hercules residents. The Council and Staff of your City thank you for your candid communications regarding your concerns. We want to have the lines of communication open so "keep those cards and letters coming."

CHIEF'S COUNTRY

All of us at the Hercules Police Department want to say we are very pleased with the "welcome and cooperation" we have received from the community.

Some of the Things the Police Are Doing:

Crime Prevention Program Ready To GO!! An officer would be happy to come to your home and talk with you and your neighbors about making your home more secure. If you are interested in having your neighbors in for coffee, cake and crime prevention, call the Police Department for details.

A school program is now getting under way. Classroom visits, films, and special guests are outlined for the school year.

Cadet Program!! If you are 17 or over, have a valid California Driver's License, and interested in law enforcement as a career, apply at the Police Department. We offer training and school credit in exchange for your time.

If you are going to be out-of-town for an extended period of time, notify the Police Department.

A new arrival October 1, 1978, **TOM TRAFFIC!!** Officer Tom Muehliesen will be assuming the duties of full-time traffic officer. Officer Muehliesen will be responsible for traffic accident investigation and traffic enforcement.

From the Car on the Street:

Do not leave notes for deliveries on the doors. This is an advertisement to ALL that no one is home.

When you are going away, "tell a neighbor". Ask them to pick-up newspapers and pamphlets around your home. Your best protection is an alert neighbor.

Keep your garage doors closed when not at home.

CHIEF'S COUNTRY (cont'd)

Law Reminders:

Personal signs cannot be posted on City property.
The speed limit in the housing tracts is 25 mph!!!
For emergency police service call 758-3043.

SCHOOL IS OPEN!!!

DRIVE CAREFULLY!!!

HERCULES BLAST OFF DAY!!!!

Hercules does not have a dynamite company in town any longer, but we're going to have a blast anyway. The city has grown rapidly and now we even have our first official park. To celebrate this dynamite event, the dedication of the Woodfield Park and the accompanying celebration will take place October 21 from 9:00 a.m. to 9:30 p.m. Note the schedule below and be sure to attend this explosive event.

9:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.— Softball tournament for adults.

11:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon—Free Children's tennis clinic for ages 8-12 taught by a tennis pro.

12:00 noon to 1:00 p.m.—Free adult tennis clinic for ages 16 and over taught by a tennis pro.

2:00 p.m.—Park dedication and landscaping awards ceremony.

2:30 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.—Organized games for children and adults including earthball, tug of war, sack races, and father-son, mother-daughter races. Volleyball and badminton nets will be set up for people to organize their own games.

5:30 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.—City Bar-B-Q. Bring your meat and picnic food. Bar-B-Q facilities will be provided by the city. A Dixieland band will be present.

7:30 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.—Free family movie "A Whale of a Tale" about a boy who befriends the sea creatures at Marineland.

Babysitting will be provided for children between the ages of 4 and 7 during the hours of 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Informational booths will be set up on the basketball court during the day. The City of Hercules, P.G. & E., P.T.&T., East Bay Regional Park District and others will have displays.

Come for the whole day, or come for one event, but do come to celebrate and to meet your neighbors.

LANDSCAPING AWARDS ANNOUNCED

You may not have known it, but your house was judged as part of the First Annual Hercules Landscaping Contest. Six judges selected 118 nominees on the basis of creativity, design (including balance, unity, proportion, and variety), maintenance, and overall beauty of their front yard landscaping. Twenty-four finalists were chosen from this list. The winners were selected on September 3. The first five winners will receive a plaque and honorable mention winners will receive a certificate. These prizes will be awarded at the October 21 Woodfield Park Dedication.

The winners are:

First Place: George & Annette Cooksey, 1751 Redwood
Second Place: Howard & Beverly Holbrook, 1889 Redwood
Third Place: Carol & Gerald Koehler, 109 Mesquite
Fourth Place: Kenneth & Celestine Muller, 1724 Redwood
Fifth Place: Kitty & Kern Quan, 160 Sequoia

Honorable Mention

Lillian & Angelo Pereira, 130 Chestnut
Marlene & Terry McDonough, 130 Heather
Motoko & Mas Nakayama, 157 Iris Road
John & Hideko Palmer, 1826 Redwood
Linda & Douglas Maples, 321 Pepperwood

Judges were Edwardo Manuel, Chairman; Bob Barrows, former employee of Richmond Recreation and Parks Department; Arnold Eilers, Co-chairman of HERC; Howard Herting, member of Hercules Architectural Control Committee; Doris Holstein, President of Hercules School P.T.A.; and Sarah McLeod, a resident of Old Hercules.

(over)

NEW BUSES ADDED

West CAT bus service is now serving the City of Hercules and the surrounding areas. Schedules have been mailed to all residents. They are also available at City Hall or by Calling 758-2266.

Because of heavy use by school children, West CAT is adding another line from Hercules to Pinole schools. The new schedule will run school days only. Add this information to your West CAT schedule brochure for future reference.

7:00 a.m.	Leave Hercules
7:17 a.m.	Arrive Pinole Valley High School
7:34 a.m.	Arrive Juan Crespi Jr. High
2:15 p.m.	Leave Juan Crespi Jr. High
2:29 p.m.	Arrive Pinole Valley High School
2:46 p.m.	Arrive Hercules

The fare is 35 cents for adults, 25 cents for youth 5 to 17, 10 cents for senior citizens and handicapped people except during peak hours, and free for children under 5 years of age.

CABLE TV ARRIVES

The Video Engineering Company has the Cable TV service operational as of September 30. A dedication ceremony was held September 30 at the Hercules Elementary School to officially recognize the new service.

The cable will bring all 19 of the cable TV stations and FM radio for \$7.50 a month. The Home Box Office movie channel will be available for an additional \$9.95 per month.

Cable will be laid down every street in the city. After your street has been connected to the system, a brochure will be hooked to your doorknob describing the services and costs. If you desire a Cable-TV hookup, call 799-0111 after you receive your brochure.

WHO DOES THE MAINTENANCE?

Some confusion seems to exist about who to contact regarding road and park maintenance. This is understandable since the City is responsible for some areas and the developers are responsible for others. The reasons for this are as follows:

As soon as the roads are paved, the developer dedicates them to the City for use. All City ordinances (speed limits, parking, fences, etc.) regarding the streets now apply. However, the developers are still responsible for all maintenance for one year after this dedication for use. After the year is over, the Hercules Public Works Department makes a detailed inspection of the roads and requests any necessary repairs. After the repairs are finished, a second inspection is made. If no further repairs are required, the roads are dedicated to the city for maintenance. This process can take up to two years to complete.

At this point the City is responsible for San Pablo and Willow Roads, all of Sycamore, Lupine to Violet and all of the streets and courts off Lupine, all of Redwood to Sequoia (not including Sequoia) and all of the streets and courts off of Redwood. The City is also responsible for Woodfield Park. For concerns in these areas, call the building inspectors at 758-4880.

The developers are responsible for all of the roads in the Sunstream development, and all of the roads, including open spaces, other than those mentioned above in Las Laderas. Developers are still responsible for the Refugio Park. Call Centex at 799-4231. Call Sunstream at 566-4420.

The Richmond Unified School District is responsible for the Hercules School grounds. Call 234-3825.

The Hercules Police Department protects the whole city. Call them at 758-4883.

FOR YOUR INFORMATION

Are you thinking of building a tool shed or patio, putting in a pool, or adding a room to your house? There are a few procedures you must follow.

First, refer to the Covenants, Conditions and Restrictions (affectionately known as the CC & R's) you signed when you purchased your home to be sure your plans are in accordance with the rules you agreed to.

Secondly, if you plan to add an accessory building, such as a cabana, tool shed, or other structure, your construction plans and specifications must be approved by the Architectural Control Committee mentioned in the CC & R's before you can receive a building permit. Patios, swimming pools, fence plans and additions to your house are not reviewed by this committee. The committee considers the harmony of the external design in relationship to existing structures, the quality of the workmanship and materials, and whether or not the new structure would determinately affect nearby property owners. Call Larry Pearce at 799-2211 for more information.

If you are not building a structure that the Architectural Control Committee must review, you can receive a building permit from one of the Building Inspectors at City Hall. Plans for all new structures, additions to the inside and outside of your home, and for other buildings on your property must be submitted to the Building Department so you can receive a permit. Fences can be built without a permit. (Check your CC & R's for fence height limitations.) Permits can be obtained from the Building Inspectors at City Hall between 8:00 a.m. to 9:00 a.m., and 4:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. on weekdays. Fees are minimal and cover only the expense of the inspection. The purpose of the inspection is to insure the safety of the structure. The Building Inspectors, Bill Burke and Al Mattson will answer any questions about building permits or about the Architectural Control Committee. Call them at 758-4880 during the hours mentioned above.

CLUTTER IN THE STREETS

A few residents are contributing to the dust and litter in the City by dumping their yard debris on the streets. Because it is dumped, the wind picks it up and deposits it in other people's yards. When the rain comes, the debris will clog the catch basins and flood the streets. If you are one of the offenders, please think of your neighbors and get rid of your debris elsewhere.

FALL LEISURE SERVICES CALENDAR

Adult classes, playground programs, and activities for almost everyone are found in the Fall Leisure Services Calendar. Look in your mailbox for your copy and plan to participate.

COMMUNITY MEETINGS COMING

In order to keep residents informed about what's happening in their City, a series of neighborhood meetings will be held. At these meetings a staff member will give information about the General Plan, the Leisure Service programs, the new sewer system, Refugio Valley Park plans, and other developments in the City. It will be a time when citizens can ask questions and give input. Each meeting will be small involving only one neighborhood or people on one street. People are needed to volunteer to host a meeting in their neighborhood. If you would be able to do this, call Pam Dorway-Worley at City Hall, 758-4880. Meetings will probably start sometime in November and continue into 1979.

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