

THE HERCULEAN

NEWSLETTER OF THE CITY OF HERCULES
P. O. BOX 156
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DECEMBER, 1979

MAYOR'S MESSAGE

Probably the greatest appeal of our City is its open space and parks. Careful planning has ensured that at least 25% of the land in the residential section of Hercules is open space. In addition, parks of all types are planned for the City. Below is a brief description of the present and future parks: **Neighborhood Parks:** Every neighborhood will have a park within a mile or less of people's homes, usually adjacent to the elementary school. **Woodfield Park**, next to Hercules Elementary School, provides playground equipment, tennis courts, a softball diamond, basketball courts, and green grass for picnics. **Ohlone Park** will be built along the creek amidst a huge stand of eucalyptus trees and other specie trees behind Ohlone Elementary School. To fit into this environment, passive uses such as picnicking, walking, and relaxing in the shade are provided in the architectural designs. In addition, a children's play area, and a small amphitheater are planned. Before the Council makes any final decisions on these plans, they want input from the public. The plans can be seen at City Hall. The Council will hold public hearings on the park and the plans will be discussed at neighborhood meetings.

At least two additional neighborhood parks are planned for other parts of the City. The geography of the area and the needs of the residents will be considered when designing these parks.

Refugio Valley Park: A large community park spanning the City from the east to the waterfront will be built in stages. At the corner of Refugio Valley Road and Sycamore Avenue a community park will be developed consisting of a small lake, an amphitheater, and a large playing field. Across the street at Pheasant and Refugio Valley Roads, four lighted tennis courts are planned. Plenty of parking will be available in both areas. The tennis courts will be ready for use in spring of 1980. The community park and bike and walking paths running the length of Refugio Valley Road will be under development next summer and should be completed by fall of 1980.

A tot lot at Refugio Valley Road and Redwood will be the next phase of development. In addition, picnic areas and a 16-station par course will be located along Refugio Valley Road.

Waterfront Park and Historic District: The bike and walking paths from Refugio Valley Park will continue under San Pablo Avenue via an old railroad tunnel to the waterfront area. At the waterfront, a park will be developed. This park will have a great deal of natural open space where Herculeans can sit in the shade of oak and eucalyptus trees to watch the sunset. In addition, the proposed Municipal Historic District is in this area. Plans call for preservation of the Clubhouse, the present City Hall, and Police Department, and other buildings in the area. Although no definite plans have been made, the Clubhouse may be purchased by the City for a recreation center, and the other buildings used for commercial purposes such as restaurants, and art galleries.

Upon approval of the Municipal Historic District, the old houses near the meadow will be sold to a developer experienced in historic property restoration. Twenty houses will be located on Bay and Pinole Streets. The houses will be brought up to code, then painted and landscaped to conform with their original style.

The Council is always looking for new ways to serve the public. New proposals regarding open space and parks include the

Adventure Playground described elsewhere in the newsletter and a Staff Naturalist. The naturalist would be under contract with the City of Hercules to prepare a wildlife preservation plan that would be used to modify any development which might harm wild animal and bird habitats and to recommend steps to enhance wildlife which are so much a part of the Hercules environment.

The Council is interested in hearing from you on these issues. Please feel free to call me, other Council members, or the City staff with your input.

Fred S. Wachowicz
MAYOR



CHIEF'S COUNTRY

We at the Hercules Police Department would like to wish you a very Merry Christmas and Happy New Year. The holiday season is a time when we relax and tend to over-indulge in the holiday spirit. We do not want to ruin Christmas for anyone by making a drunk driving arrest, so please don't drink and drive.

After Santa's visit we see a number of new bikes and motorcycles. Please take that few extra minutes to instruct your children on safety. Also, for motorcycle riders a reminder that the hills are off limits and that you **cannot** ride on the street if you are unlicensed.

A few safety reminders when shopping. Lock your gifts in the trunk. Check for fire hazards involving your Christmas trees and lights.

For the past two weeks and during the coming year, officers from the Police Department will be contacting you on a personal basis. We are conducting a neighborhood survey regarding police services and we ask your cooperation. As your Police Administrator I am truly trying to assess the concerns and needs of this community regarding police services. I can only do this with your cooperation.

Police Cadets needed! We need young adults interested in a career in law enforcement. We are recruiting male and female applicants age 17 who possess a California driver's license and a desire to work with the police department and community. We offer assistance with school expenses, a small salary and an inside look at police work as a career. I would urge any young adults or parents who have young adults interested in law enforcement to call us at 724-Cops.

Our ride-along program is still in operation. If you would like to ride-along with a police officer on patrol to get a first hand look at your police department in action, please call for an appointment.

Again, let me wish you a joyous Holiday, and if we can be of any service to you, please do not hesitate to call us.

Cyndy Maloney

Cyndy Maloney is the Leisure Service's Coordinator. As department head she is responsible for all the recreational programs, classes, and activities sponsored by the department. Cyndy has a B.S.



degree in Public Recreation from Fresno State University.

Her experience is varied. She counselled at YMCA youth camps in Fresno for three years and was program and camp director at a family camp. One of her favorite jobs before coming to Hercules was working at Marriott's Great America as a tour guide for VIP's. Cyndy was activities director for the 400 Club at the Diablo Keys apartment complex prior to taking a job in Hercules. In addition to her responsibilities as Leisure Services Coordinator, Cyndy teaches CPR classes and is a graduate assistant for the Dale Carnegie course. She is on the Board of Directors of the Richmond YMCA and the Tri-Cities Discovery Center. She and her husband Dale and their puppy Sundance live in Martinez.

John Powderly

John Powderly is the Recreation Supervisor for the Leisure Services Department. He directs and coordinates programs related to the parks, playgrounds, sports and cultural activities and organizes the BAF programs.



Henry, Ken and Naomi report to him. John is a lifelong resident of Pinole where he graduated from Pinole Valley High School. He has a B.S. in Recreation from Cal State University, Hayward, and a California secondary teaching credential from the University of San Francisco. For a while he substituted and coached basketball at his high school alma mater but decided that his first love was recreation. Prior to Prop 13 cutbacks he worked for the Pinole Park and Recreation Department for ten years where, among other things, he did programming, organized city-wide sports events and intramural teams, and developed a summer camp program. John continues to have an active interest in high school sports activities. He enjoys travelling, camping and photography.



Henry Chan

Henry Chan runs the In-School program at Hercules Elementary School. The program consists of arts and crafts, perceptual motor control activities, rhythm and games, physical education classes, and field trips. Individual tutors are also provided. Henry is attending Cal State Hayward majoring in Recreation Administration and minoring in Therapeutic Recreation. He is also working towards a certificate in Special Physical Education. He holds certificates from the American Red Cross in personal first aid, advanced first aid, and CPR.

Naomi Sanchez

Naomi Sanchez has worked as a playground leader for over a year. She supervises the after-school program and organizes arts and crafts activities. Naomi formerly had a similar job in Pinole. When she is not working for the City, Naomi is acting as an Oakland Raiderette Cheerleader for her favorite football team. In addition to over 16 hours of cheerleading practice a week, she is involved in numerous promotions for the team including appearances for charities. Naomi's hobbies include taking advanced jazz dancing lessons, working on arts and crafts projects, listening to Elvis music and collecting his memorabilia, jogging and domesticating Antarctic penguins.

Ken Hensley

Ken Hensley is a playground leader. He supervises the playground

after school and on weekends and organizes intermural sports such as soccer, flag football and baseball. Ken is a 1979 graduate from Pinole Valley High School. Water polo is his favorite sport but he also acts as captain of the Dolan Lumber Softball team.

Adventure Playgrounds

Remember how much fun it was to build forts, make mud pies, and get dirty in the vacant lot near your house? And no adults telling you what to do so you could let your imagination run wild! There aren't many vacant lots any more but the next best thing may come to Hercules.



The Leisure Services Department has proposed an Adventure Playground for Hercules. It would consist of a dirt lot where kids of all ages are free to build forts and treehouses, to garden and camp, or to do any number of other activities. The playground would be supervised by Leisure Services personnel. They would be there to insure the safety of the children and to teach them to use tools, but they would not be structuring activities. This playground is a place for kids to use their imaginations without adult interference.

Although Adventure Playgrounds are a new concept in the U.S., they have been flourishing in Europe since World War II. Interestingly enough, injuries are not a problem in these playgrounds. No more, and in some cases fewer, accidents occur at Adventure Playgrounds than at conventional play areas. Safety is not a problem. Costs for these programs are minimal compared to conventional playgrounds. Most materials like wood, nails and tools are donated. There are no large capital outlays. Staffing is usually the only major expense.

The Leisure Services staff is investigating other aspects of the Adventure Playground. For more information call John Powderly at 724-PLAY.

Leisure Services Programs

Several Herculeans have indicated a desire to become a United States citizen. If enough people can be found to form a class, the Leisure Services Department will organize a **Citizenship Class**. The class would help people prepare for the test given to those who become naturalized United States citizens. Call 724-PLAY (7529) if you are interested.

Feeling overweight after holiday indulgence? If you are interested in joining **Weight Watchers**, contact Leisure Services at 724-PLAY (7529).

Do you have toys or games that your children no longer use? The **Carquinez Coalition**, a community organization in Rodeo, is collecting new and used toys to distribute to needy youngsters. They would particularly appreciate the toys this Christmas season but they could use them year-round. Show your Christmas spirit by sharing with the children of our area. Take your contributions to the Coalition office at 199 Parker Avenue in Rodeo between 8:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m., Monday through Friday.

A Gift to Hercules

The City of Hercules received two grants recently; \$5000 was received from the Carl Gellert Foundation and \$5000 was granted by the Fred Gellert Foundation. The Gellerts founded Suburban Realty, the company that builds Sunstream Homes. The Council has indicated that they would like most of the money to be used for playground equipment at Ohlone Park.

Something for the New Year

The New Year is upon us. What better way to celebrate than to find out more about your City? Neighbors are gathering to hear a presentation describing the General Plan for City growth and answering questions about new parks, shopping centers and housing. Leisure Services programs, the Solar Aquaculture Sewer plant and the newest programs in the City are discussed. Find out what's happening! Call Pam Dorway-Worley at 724-2489 if you would like a meeting in your neighborhood.



Used Christmas Tree, Anyone?

The bright ornaments are put away, the tinsel is in the garbage can but what to do with a dried, used Christmas tree?

The Pinole Garbage Company has a solution. On January 4, 1980 you can deposit your tree in a Pinole Garbage container set up in the lot across from Woodfield Park. If the container is full when you arrive you can leave your tree beside it.

If you can't bring your tree to the container, leave it with your trash on the day your garbage is picked up.

Thank you to the Pinole Garbage Company for this service!

New Business, New Jobs

The industrial zone of Hercules is again showing signs of life. The Al Conhagen, Inc. of California, the western branch of a service that repairs equipment for oil companies, shipping lines, and utilities has leased the old VNP machine shops. In addition to work in their ships they fly their employees to service oil tankers stranded in the oceans of the world. None of their work involves environmentally detrimental operations or machinery.



Principals in the business are Pierre Morinaud and Louis Schroll. Mr. Morinaud will be the head of sales and administration. He has degrees in mechanical engineering and business administration. He was involved in anti-submarine defense work for NATO. For over 13 years he was in charge of design and building of new production facilities for an electronics company. Since 1973 he has been self-employed.

Louis Schroll will be the operations manager for the company. He has 32 years of experience in the petro-chemical industry and marine business. His experience includes refinery construction and work on the Alaska pipeline. Both performed similar work in Benicia.

The company wants to hire Hercules citizens. At this point they are looking for highly skilled machinists and mechanical technicians to work in high paying jobs. Operations will run 24 hours a day, 365 days a year. The company provides steady employment and full medical and pension benefits. They are concerned about their employees; "The good ones we take care of", they say. Write to the Al Conhagen, Inc. of California, P.O. Box 137, Hercules, 94547.

Cable News

Video Engineering announces several changes on your cable dial which should make reception better on the channels involved. The change on Channel 3 will improve reception on the Home Box Office station. It will probably not clear up all of the problems on that channel but it should help. The other switch is to clear up reception on these channels.

Dial 3 on A becomes Channel 3; Dial 3 on B becomes Channel 32
Dial 11 on A becomes Channel 38; Dial 11 on B becomes Channel 11

Video Engineering is continuing its work to improve reception on the other channels.

New requests for cable service have been flooding the Video Engineering office. They are booked for two solid weeks in advance of service time. They ask that people desiring cable service call their office at 799-0111 for an appointment; however, no hookups can be made before the first part of January.

Council Elections

Many new residents will have their first chance to vote for members of the Hercules City Council next March when the terms of three of the five Council members expire.

Council members presently holding those positions are Mayor Pro Tem Charles Collins and Council members Gorgonio Solidum and Joel Zieper. It's not too early to register to vote. If you have changed your address since the last time you voted, you **must** re-register. Registration cards are available at City Hall and at any Post Office. Simply fill out the form and mail it in at least 30 days prior to the election. Be sure to take part in this very important event.



The Aquaculture System

Hercules is creating a sensation with its unique Solar Aquaculture Wastewater Treatment system. Inquiries stream into City Hall from many sources. Cities looking for a better sewage plant and universities and organizations interested in the ecological aspects of the system call or visit. In fact, a report on our system done by Harvard University will be presented to the U.S. Congress.



What is causing all of this interest? The Solar Aquaculture system, which uses a biological process to clean sewage water, will be a less costly, more efficient and environmentally sound means of treating sewage. After the aquatic plants and animals suck up the nutrients in the sewage, the water is clean enough for use as irrigation and industrial water.

The Solar Aquaculture Wastewater System being built in the city will be the first of its kind in the nation -- a very innovative step on the part of the Council. The system consists of a series of holding ponds through which the sewage flows. In each pond bacteria, diatoms, snails, small fish, water hyacinths, and other plants which thrive on sewage feed on the effluent. The effluent moves from pond to pond becoming cleaner and cleaner. The water in the final pond will be clean enough to irrigate the City's open spaces and to sell for industrial uses. If done naturally this process takes a great deal of time. In Hercules however, this process will be aided by a greenhouse built over the plant. The sun shining into the greenhouse will keep a constant water temperature which will speed up the biological process.

The water hyacinth, a hardy aquatic plant, craves the nutrients and even the toxic chemicals and heavy metals in sewage and is thus highly effective in treating wastewater. This high protein plant can be harvested and sold as feed for hogs, cattle and fish or placed in a compost pile and converted into a rich organic fertilizer. Thus, unlike conventional wastewater treatment plants, a product can be sold and bring in a separate income from the thriving vegetation grown in the pond.

Citizen of Hercules

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Unlike conventional wastewater plants throughout the United States, the Hercules plant does not utilize the environmentally hazardous and very expensive chemicals to treat its water. The system in the plant merely helps speed up "Mother Nature's" method by using an environmentally balanced system to convert raw sewage into reclaimed water. This water can eventually be used for irrigation and industrial uses at a lower cost than water supplied by EBMUD.

In addition to the income from aquatic plants and the recycled water, money is saved by not using the expensive chemicals and by

not having to remove chemical residual which are detrimental in receiving waters. Fewer machines are needed which eliminates the initial capital costs for machines and ongoing costs required to operate and maintain them.

This 100% city-financed pioneer project began in 1976 when it was first presented to the City Council. Two years later it was unanimously approved by the Council and construction was started in March of 1979. April 1980 is the target date to start processing waste water through the facility from the new development in Hercules.

