

The Herculean



City of Hercules Information Brochure
Summer 2009

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**CITY HALL HOURS:
MONDAY - FRIDAY
8:00 AM - 5:00 PM**

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For additional information, please visit the City website at www.ci.hercules.ca.us

CITY DIRECTORY

City Manager	799-8206
City Hall-General Information	799-8200
City Hall Fax	799-2521
Community/Swim Center	799-8291
Parks & Recreation Department	799-8291
Hercules Municipal Utility	799-8285
Hercules Senior Center	799-8219
Finance Dept/Business License	245-6509
Business/Community Development	245-6529
Public Works & Engineering	799-8241
Inspection Request Line	799-8240
City Clerk	799-8215
Police Department	799-8260
Rodeo-Hercules Fire District	799-4561

City Council 799-8206
Meets the second & fourth Tuesday of each month.

Joe Eddy McDonald, Mayor	Donald Kuehne
Kris Valstad, Vice Mayor	Joanne Ward
Ed Balico	

Planning Commission 245-6529
Meets the first and third Monday of each month.

Sherry McCoy, Chair	Richard Mitchell
Myrna L. deVera, Vice Chair	Raoul Maltez
Jose Bibal	

Community and Library Services Commission 799-8291
Meets the second Monday of each month

Adoria Williams-Weinstein, Chair	John Mills
Cletia Hart, Vice Chair	Sid Shapiro
Sherry Madfes	Jojo Soriano

Education Commission 799-8254
Currently remains dormant

Featured on cover:
from left to right: one of several dance groups from the Boardway Rhythm Dance Company, singer from Alex & The Tradewinds, the Kucheza Ngoma II Dance Company, the Aerobi Kids, Sparky and a firefighter from the Rodeo Hercules Fire District, and Herculeans enjoying the Tickle Me petting zoo, Disney characters and vendors all at the 31st Annual Cultural Festival.

Hercules Downtown Underway

In early May, the Hercules Redevelopment Agency broke ground on the long awaited Sycamore Avenue Downtown project. Despite construction coming to a halt for many cities across the Bay and around the county, the City of Hercules Redevelopment Agency, due to strong fiscal management and planning, is able to move forward with this exciting project. Located just off of Sycamore and San Pablo, the first phase of Sycamore Avenue, called Sycamore North, will consist of 96 residential units and approximately 40,000 square feet of retail and restaurant space.



Artist Rendering of Sycamore North

Sycamore Downtown A Long Time Coming

On Tuesday, May 12, 2009, City officials hosted a ground breaking ceremony to celebrate the occasion. Mayor Joe



City Manager Oliva speaking at ground breaking event on May 12, 2009

Eddy McDonald welcomed attendees adding that “We in this community are very, very fortunate that this [development] is occurring.” Following Mayor McDonald, City Manager Nelson Oliva discussed the details of the project saying, “This project did not

start yesterday...we’ve looked forward to this day for almost four years.” He went on to say, “we have a direct interest for this to be a successful product and that this will be the product that other developers will point to or that we will be able to point to developers and say ‘we want it built like Sycamore Downtown.’”

Redevelopment And State Agencies Make Project Possible

The Hercules Redevelopment Agency is the primary project funder, but the Agency also received grant monies from the California Housing Finance Agency and the California Department of Housing and Community

Development (HCD). City Manager Oliva stated, “We have a very good partner, CalHFA, who shared our vision and funded us with our seed money. We received additional funds from their agency and we were advised that they felt we were doing a project with all the things they wanted to see happen: it’s affordable housing, it’s mixed use, it’s in the center of redevelopment, it’s basically reuse of property that was historically used as part of the Dynamite factory and also pretty close to transit. They went ahead and told us we could apply for an additional two million more if we wanted it. It was the easiest application I’ve ever filled out, I just said yes.” The HCD funds will be used to provide up to \$30,000 to moderate income households as mortgage down

❑ *Continued on page 2*



Attendees were welcomed by City Council and enjoyed cookies and brownies following the ground breaking ceremony

From NYPD To HPD

On March 23, 2009, Jessica Hathcock began employment as a Police Officer for the Hercules Police Department. Officer Hathcock came to Hercules from the New York City Police Department, where she was employed since 2005. Her last assignment at N.Y.P.D. was in the Patrol Division in the borough of Queens.

Officer Hathcock was born in New York and lived in Puerto Rico during her youth before returning to New York and graduating from John F. Kennedy High School in the Bronx. She later earned a Bachelors Degree in Engineering from the State University of New York in Stony Brook.

Officer Hathcock is also a member of the United States Air Force Reserve, where she serves as a KC-10 Crew Chief, with such diverse duty assignments as Travis Air Force Base in Fairfield, Mildenhall, England and Ramstein, Germany.

In her spare time, Officer Hathcock enjoys activities such as surfing, biking, and anything outdoors. She is also an accomplished cook. Officer Hathcock has found the community of Hercules to be a pleasant one compared to New York. She says "I am very impressed with the way the citizens of Hercules treat the police. It is a very nice change and I feel very welcome here."



❑ *Downtown continued from page 1*

payment assistance; a total of twenty six households will be helped.

Downtown Will Be True Mixed Use Development

Plans for Sycamore North consist of three distinct architectural components: a for-sale residential component, a rental residential component, and a retail component. The residential components will be located on the upper floors of two contiguous buildings, joined at the center by a plaza and tower. Fifty units will be rental units for very low to moderate income families with the opportunity for those families to become homeowners in ten years. The other forty six units will be for sale units with twenty six of those going to moderate income families. The Affordable Housing Department will be responsible for overseeing all applications for financial assistance for this project.

As for the retail component, the City of Hercules has partnered with Main Street Property Services, Inc. (MSPS) to secure a selection of local and regional retail and restaurant tenants that will create a vibrant retail street in Hercules. Main Street Property Services, Inc. provides clients with first-hand knowledge of activities and transactions throughout the retail real estate industry. For more information, please visit www.MSPSinc.com.

Retail Will Be Here In 2011

Construction is expected to be complete in Spring of 2011 and Phase II of Sycamore Downtown, called Sycamore Crossing is expected to begin construction around that same time. For more information on this project, visit our website at www.ci.hercules.ca.us and click on the Hercules Projects link.



Streetlight Banners Line Sycamore with Renderings of Project

Are You *STREET SMART*?

SUMMER SAFETY HINTS FROM THE HERCULES POLICE DEPARTMENT

As summer approaches, many of us enjoy staying outdoors for longer periods of time, well into the evening hours. Along with the freedom of fresh air and sunshine comes increased interaction with others in the beautiful parks, trails, and streets of our city. It may never be more important to remember basic safety tips to avoid being victimized during the summer months.

Constant hyper-vigilance is probably not necessary, but a heightened sense of awareness while out in public will increase your personal safety and the safety of those around you, particularly in isolated areas. Areas of Hercules where such awareness should be employed include city parks and walking paths used for pleasure and exercise. The paved trail on Refugio Valley Road is a popular, picturesque route that runs between Sycamore and Mandalay Avenues. With its serpentine and gentle slopes and dips, the trail intermittently is out of sight from the main road and from others sharing the path. In one segment by the Swim Center, the path is shaded and obstructed by tall eucalyptus trees. Try to walk with a partner in these areas, but if this is not possible, carry a cell phone with the police dispatch number (510-724-1111) programmed into it, and be alert for any unusual people or activities. Always contact the police if you observe suspicious activity.

Heightened awareness should also be employed when traveling to and from work. Whether it is a walk from a parked car to catch a bus or casual carpool, or taking a lunch time stroll, one should always be aware of safety risks when out in public. Know your surroundings, do not venture to

unfamiliar areas, and try to walk in groups. There is safety in numbers!

Heightened awareness will also help deter serious crimes such as thefts, assaults, and robberies. Although Hercules had an overall decrease in crime in 2008, assaults increased by 25% and robberies increased by 6% over 2007. Here are some examples of safety measures that you may wish to employ to avoid being a violent crime victim:

- Be aware of risks before venturing out. Apply common sense at all times. If you are taking a lunchtime stroll, bring a co-worker with you or at least let others know the route you are taking and when you are returning. Do not leave your purse, wallet, or other valuables exposed in your vehicle, or lock them in the trunk while visible to others. This is an invitation to criminals to break into your vehicle.
- Consider your options, and have a mental plan. Think about what you would do if you were about to be victimized. Where can you go for help? How much resistance will you give? Is it worth fighting, if giving up your purse or backpack will ensure your safety?
- Walk with confidence and purpose. Trust your instincts. Don't be afraid to appear unfriendly or impolite if it means removing yourself from a situation that you feel uneasy or unsafe. Be observant, and aware of your surroundings.
- Try not to wear, or have exposed to view, articles of clothing or accessories that can attract those intent on theft or robbery. Items such as expensive jewelry and ipods or

similar music devices are popular items with criminals. If you use headphones, reduce the volume so you can hear others approaching you. When possible, walk on the inside of a sidewalk, preferably facing traffic.

- A 911 emergency call from a cell phone is received by the California Highway Patrol and must be forwarded to the Hercules Police dispatch center. For emergencies in and around Hercules, set the Hercules police dispatch center number (510-724-1111) on speed dial as a primary emergency number. Do not hesitate to call the police for unusual people, situations, and activities that you witness.
- Try not to carry large amounts of cash. If you have occasions that you need to carry unusual amounts of cash, be discreet. Consider dividing the funds into two or more locations in your clothing rather than one large sum in your purse or wallet.

Remember the old saying "An ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure." Where your safety is concerned, that ounce of prevention may save you from becoming another crime statistic. Be alert, be aware, and have an excellent summer!



Be Creative! Summer Reading Program

School is out for the summer, and many parents are asking themselves how to keep their child motivated and reading at grade level during the three month break. The Summer Reading program is offered every year to give you and your child an opportunity to read and have fun. Recent studies have shown that voluntary summer reading can help close achievement gaps in low-performing students. Students who self-select books, as well as read silently to themselves score the highest on standardized reading tests. The importance of reading during school breaks cannot be understated. Each year the library offers a reading program with prizes and activities to provide incentive to read over the summer.

Be Creative!

Kids' Summer Reading 2009 will be offered at all Contra Costa County branches from June 8 through August 17. Children from age 2 through 5th grade can stop by their local library starting June 8th to pick up a reading record, or download a copy from the library website at www.ccclib.org. Prizes for completing the reading record will be an inflatable guitar, a buy-one-get-one-free pizza coupon from Round Table, and a pass to the Lawrence Hall of Science. In addition to these prizes offered by the county, the Friends of the Hercules Library will be giving away a free book to children who complete their summer reading logs at the Hercules Library.

Parents Can Get Prizes Too

We haven't forgotten the babies or the hard-working parents who go the extra mile to make sure their child will have a head start on their literacy skills. Babies and their parents who complete their reading logs will receive a board book, as well as be entered to win a raffle for a Parent's Prize Bag.



Look out for special Be Creative! Library craft events taking place all summer. Join in our Hercules Library Bookmark Contest to have a chance to make your design one of the library's official bookmarks. Take a moment to mark these programs on your summer calendar for children: MakenShake craft and music with Betsy Stern (Monday, July 20th at 7 pm), and Dance the Color Wheel with Aishah and Troupe Mirari (Tuesday, July 14th at 7 pm). Wrapping everything up on Monday, August 17th at 7:00 pm will be a visit from Capt'n Spareribs. You might have caught the Capt'n entertaining kids on Pier 39—he's been voted Best Kids Performer 2009 by Best of the Bay list. There will be plenty of fun for the kids who participated in the summer reading program, as well as a chance to turn in their Summer Reading records and collect their prizes. Be sure to check out our online schedule of activities and performances at www.ccclib.org.

Lots More In Store For Summer

These programs and activities for kids are just a few things we are offering this summer—the library also has Summer Reading for Teens and Adults as well. Check out the Library's website for details or contact a staff person for Reading Program rules, prizes, and programs. Don't forget to check out our Children's Storytimes on Tuesdays (ages 3-8) at 7:00 pm and Thursday mornings (ages 0-3), 10 and 11 am.

What To Help?

The Hercules Library will be relying on volunteers to help with programs, distribute information about the programs, and distribute prizes, as well as run the Be Creative! Craft table. Contact the Library at 510-245-2420 if you are interested in volunteering for the Summer Reading Program or other library-related activities.

What's New With The Waterfront

Environmental Review

Both the Intermodal Transit Center and the Hercules Bayfront Project environmental documents are moving forward and it's likely you have seen the Intermodal Transit Center draft out for review and comment. This is good news, as the ultimate certification of the environmental documents will give us the "green light" to move ahead on other aspects of the projects. Refugio Creek and San Pablo Bay create an additional challenge because a number of permits are needed from agencies such as the Bay Conservation and Development Commission (BCDC), the Army Corp of Engineers, and State Fish & Game, before work can begin.

Train And Track Improvements

Dirt will start moving on the train and track improvements for the Intermodal Transit Center components in mid-2010. The work will include moving five utility lines out of the railroad right-of-way, and constructing an extensive series of retaining walls to stabilize the slopes and to keep the dirt from the Bay Trail, railroad, etc.

Renovation Of Historical Structures

The Redevelopment Agency staff is working with the developer on a timeline for "jump starting" the rehabilitation of the Administration building (the red brick building behind the Powder Keg restaurant). This will involve construction of some of the public improvements including the lower

plaza next to the Powder Keg and the road to access the building. Negotiations for beginning the renovation of the historical structures are now underway.

Behind The Scenes Staff Work

Bi-monthly meetings with the entire team have been on-going for almost a year. We are tackling issues such as the design of the station building to conform to the Waterfront Initiative design standards, moving the sewer lift station, providing for additional plazas next to Refugio Creek and near the pedestrian overcrossing to Hercules Point, submitting funding applications, etc. City staff also meets at least weekly with our primary consultant – HDR Engineering – on a range of issues including project management.

New Building Configuration And Designs

New designs are being presented for the Station Building and Pedestrian Overcrossing to all of the project stakeholders including the City Council, Planning Commission, Union Pacific Railroad, transit operators, Water Emergency Transportation Authority, East Bay Regional Park District, etc. Residents are encouraged to attend any current or future public meetings and provide feedback.

If you have any questions regarding the Hercules Bayfront Project and/or the Intermodal Transit Center project, please call Lisa Hammon at 510.799.8251 or by email at lhammon@ci.hercules.ca.us or visit the City's website at www.ci.hercules.ca.us.



Lupine Garden Teaches Lessons For Life

This year, Lupine Hills Elementary 4th and 5th graders began to see the fruits of their labor, or at least the vegetables. In April 2007, the school, in partnership with the Hercules Rotary Club and Parent Teacher Association (PTA), broke ground on the Lou Anne Dibble Memorial Garden. Now the students' hard work is finally paying off in the form of large, organic vegetables. The students picked a winter harvest and the garden continues to bloom into the summer months. Also, as more teachers and students take part in its care, the garden keeps getting bigger and better.

Lupine teacher and garden enthusiast, Mrs. Valerie Oliva oversees the garden and takes her class out at least twice a week to plant, prune and water. Furthermore, she implemented a school wide equity project related to the garden and secured grant funds from The Watershed Project and Contra Costa Clean Water Program. Mrs. Oliva explained, "For the equity project, each classroom created a mural that somehow relates to gardening or nature. By the end of the school year, all the murals will be hung on the fence surrounding the garden."

Lou Anne Dibble, the garden's namesake, was a beloved teacher at Lupine Elementary and advocated for such a garden for many years before she passed due to a brain tumor in February 2007. She was active in writing grants and securing funds for the garden and in her memory, the Lou Anne Dibble Memorial Garden Fund was created. Now, less than two years later, her garden is becoming an integral part of education at Lupine Elementary.

In May 2009, a dedication ceremony was held and a check for \$1,500 was presented to the school from the Hercules Municipal Utility. Both Mrs. Dibble's daughters, also teachers themselves, Danelle and Dayna were in attendance. Danelle Dibble expressed appreciation for Mrs. Oliva's hard work adding, "I'm so glad to see the garden come to fruition. That's what my mom has always wanted." At the ceremony, the daughters presented a mural to the school that was added to the others from the Lupine students. The mural includes irises (Lou Anne's favorite flower), a caterpillar, two beautiful butterflies, and a poem all of which was put together by Lou Anne's family.

Lou Anne Dibble learned to appreciate nature from her mother and passed that appreciation on to everyone she came in contact with, especially her daughters. "She taught me how to find caterpillar eggs and every March we would

□ *Continued on page 8*



The Lou Anne Dibble Memorial Garden includes a greenhouse, a butterfly garden, a composting area and a heritage garden



Lupine Garden Chair Valerie Oliva, Lupine Principal Kathleen Brady, and Lou Anne's daughters Danelle and Dayna Dibble at the Lou Anne Dibble Memorial Garden Dedication



The mural Lou Anne's family created is now a permanent fixture in the garden along with the other murals created by students

Ohlone Teacher Devotes Life To Education

After 37 years of dedicated service, Ohlone Resource Teacher, Ms. Kathy Tyson, will be retiring from education, at least officially. This extraordinary teacher has been at Ohlone Elementary for 30 years and serves as the schools only resource instructor. Her students, many of them now successful adults, are living examples of her incredible influence and the impact of school resource programs.

Learning Center Assists Both Resource And Non-Resource Students

In recent years, with encouragement from Principal Liz Lonsdale, Ms. Tyson has developed Ohlone's program into a full service learning center, which offers assistance to special education students and students who may just be struggling. Ms. Tyson partners with teachers to provide the right amount of assistance to each student. According to Principal Lonsdale, "Teachers don't mind sending their students because they know it's not a waste of time. The students come back stronger."

Every day, small groups of student, usually eight to twelve, spend one hour with Ms. Tyson. "We have to have small groups for students who are struggling. Every teacher has at least four to five kids who need help." And the learning center provides that help. Students receive focused attention from the instructor and specialized lessons helping stu-



Ms. Tyson discusses the life cycle of a butterfly, integrating language, writing and causal relationships

dents develop their math, writing, reading and language skills. Ms. Tyson keeps lessons tied to the real world adding that "the goal [for students] is to learn how to think and look at things before they do something."

Students Develop Social Skills

The program also teaches social skills. Students must participate in group activities and cannot 'hide' as easily as in a classroom of 30, although Ms. Tyson makes participation fun with hands on activities and games. Small groups consist of students from multiple grades enabling older students to tutor younger students. Teaching helps older students to absorb more and younger students receive one on one attention. Ms. Tyson calls several of her 4th and 5th grade students "mini-me." Ms. Tyson sees disruptive and destructive behavior virtually disappear after just a short time in the program. "One student was acting out on a regular basis. I finally told her that she either had to stop the behavior or go back to her class. She chose to stay, stopped acting out and even got student of the month in her regular class."

Most elementary schools have similar resource/intervention programs, what makes Ohlone's unique is Ms. Tyson. Principal Lonsdale explains saying, "Students feel wanted and welcomed. Because of that she gets their attention and

☐ *Continued on page 8*



Ms. Tyson engages students with games such as 'Name That Country' where students toss an inflated globe and have to name a continent and country when the globe is thrown to them



Students are given the freedom to integrate their creativity with the lessons and to work at their own pace

□ *Tyson continued from page 7*

they are willing to work with her.” When Ms. Tyson asked her students “what helps you learn?” (expecting them to talk about the small groups), one quickly replied “You.” Another expanded saying, “you help us study and help us learn.” Despite Ohlone’s uniqueness, all resource programs are vital. “If a child is behind, they really do require intervention. If there are gaps, you have to fill them,” says Tyson.

Small Group Environment Is Crucial

The reason for the resource program’s success: the environment. Small groups, focused attention, and unique, specialized lessons create an environment that allows students flexibility and in turn allows them to thrive. The reason for Ms. Tyson’s success: love. “I want students to know I really care about them. The students are the greatest blessing of my life,” says Tyson. Principal Lonsdale sees it too. “You know that old saying, ‘they won’t care what you know until they know that you care,’ Ms. Tyson is the epitome of that. She knows what she’s doing and she loves what she’s doing.”

Future is Bright

So what will happen next year? Ms. Tyson is committed



At the learning center, students first work on learning groups such as birds, mammals, and reptiles

to assisting the new teacher in whatever way she can and her legacy will live on through the lives of the countless students and people she has touched. In addition, she has already started on a book, which will include biographies of people who have overcome learning disabilities. “Intervention programs are powerful ways to support children who are struggling,” says Tyson. The City of Hercules agrees, and wants to thank Ms. Kathy Tyson for her dedication to seeing all students succeed.

□ *Memorial Garden continued from page 6*

go and find some.” Lou Anne also brought them to her class and now, Danelle continues that tradition and brings them to her own 4th grade class at Ohlone Elementary.

Lou Anne Dibble understood the value of students working in a garden and so does Mrs. Oliva. “Students learn cooperation, listening skills, ecology and garden etiquette. They gain a deep sense of pride and commitment,” says Oliva. Working in a garden is also hands on and prevocational, so it helps students with different learning styles offered in a



Staff from The Watershed Project show students tiny creatures, called invertebrates, that can be found in a marsh

traditional classroom setting. Danelle Dibble agrees saying, “She [Lou Anne Dibble] wanted a place where kids could learn and get their hands dirty.”

In addition to the learning that takes place in the garden, Mrs. Oliva’s students received two special presentations from The Watershed Project. As a part of these presentations, students learn about marshes and creeks and the importance of protecting these unique ecosystems. Located in Richmond, CA, The Watershed Project works to promote understanding and appreciation of our natural resources and increase awareness of the human impacts upon these resources. They provide grants, workshops and other educational resources to teachers throughout the Bay Area. For more information on the Watershed Project, visit their website at www.thewatershedproject.org.

Mrs. Oliva has more great things planned for next year including composting scraps from the lunch room, more plots for teachers and their students and expanding the garden to almost double its current size. If you are interested in being a part of this wonderful garden or other gardening projects in Hercules, please contact the Hercules Sustainable Community Garden Foundation at hcgpf@comcast.net.

Annexation-A Long And Detailed Process

Situated on either side of State Route 4, along the northern border of Hercules, are a number of parcels of land that total almost 600 acres. For most Herculeans, this area is known as Franklin Canyon. For more than a year now, our city government has been studying the possibility of incorporating (or annexing) a substantial portion of Franklin Canyon into Hercules. Recently the City Council approved the retention of a team of consultants to prepare an application to annex a significant portion of this area.

Much of the area along the south side of SR 4 is very steep and subject to land movement, but will be included in the annexation attempt in order to complete an orderly establishment of city boundaries. The south side of SR 4 is also the location of the former Claeys Ranch House and Barns. Although no plans have been formally adopted, this site could be used as an interpretive center or maintained for its historical use.

The north side of SR 4 is currently used for the grazing of cattle and has large open fields that could potentially be used for recreational facilities. During the Community Update in April of this year, Big League Dreams had an ex-

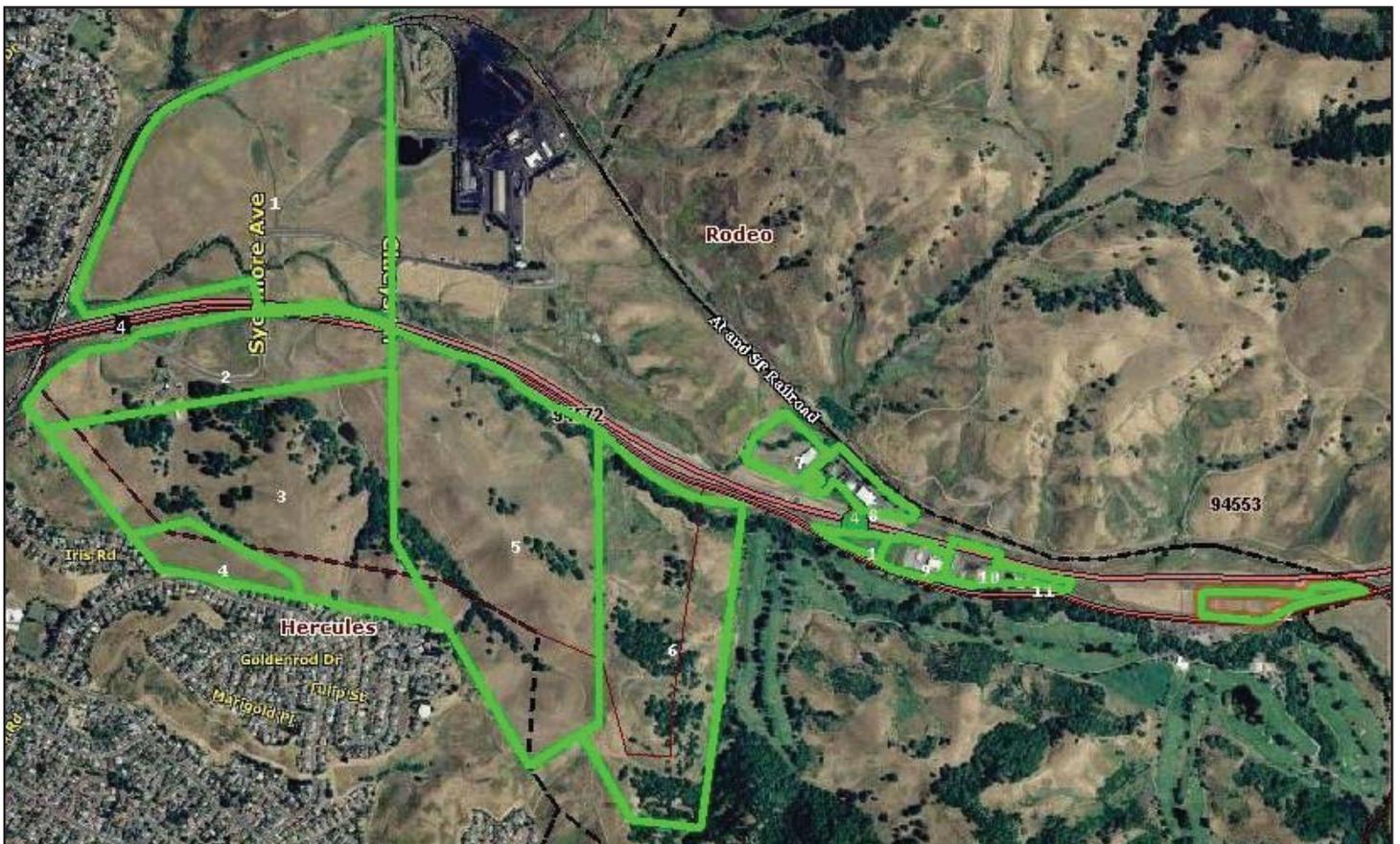
hibit detailing the many opportunities this type of facility can offer to the public. The Conoco Phillips Carbon Plant is also located on the north side of SR 4, but will not be included in the annexation application.

The proposed annexation area is already within the boundaries of the City of Hercules Sphere of Influence and within the Urban Limit Line Boundaries. There are no formal plans for land use in the area and the studies now under way will assist the City Council and City Management in assessing future land uses in the proposed annexation area.

All of the property on the southern side of SR 4 is subject to an initiative (Measure M) that was approved by the voters in 2004. If the city is successful in annexing this property, the land use restrictions of that initiative remain in effect. This essentially limits residential development to one home for every forty acres of land. Measure M did not limit any development on the north side of SR 4.

In order to secure an annexation, a number of steps must be followed. Those steps include a complete environmental study (called an Environmental Impact Report)

☐ *Continued on page 10*



Map of Franklin Canyon with potential annexation areas outlined in green



Residential Abatement Standards

From the Rodeo-Hercules Fire Prevention Bureau

The following are minimum standards of the Rodeo-Hercules Fire Protection District for the abatement of exterior fire hazards in accordance with Division 12 Part 3 & 5 of the California

State Health and Safety Code, and Chapter 3 of the 2007 California Fire Code.

1. Complete abatement may require a combination of disking, mowing, and spraying on some parcels.
2. Mowing/Weed-Whacking: The maximum height for remaining material standing or lying is **THREE INCHES (3")**.
3. All grass/weeds in back yards are to be mowed/weed-whacked within property lines to include the hill or slope behind fences that belong to the parcel in question.
4. For exceptionally large lots with a slope or hill at the rear belonging to the affected property, the minimum requirements shall be fifty feet (50') from the top rear of the parcel inward (Rear fence or property line at the top of the slope.) and 100 feet (100') from the rear most portion of the house outward. Ideally the entire property would be abated.

5. Any grass/weeds left must be no longer than (3") **THREE INCHES**, whether standing or laying.

6. Where applicable, (on large parcels in remote areas) all structures must have a minimum **ONE HUNDRED FOOT (100')** firebreak, disked, landscaped, or mowed around them. This may include the maintained garden landscape.

7. All combustible rubbish, trash, trimmings, or litter shall be removed from the property.

8. All combustible materials of value being stored outside, away from a building shall be neatly stored and have all combustible growth cleared for 30' around it (boats, cars, wood, etc.)

9. The Fire District may require additional abatement on properties because of special problems with terrain, land use, growth, location, or the fire history of the area.

10. Abatement of exterior fire hazards shall be maintained annually. Parcels may require a second abatement during the summer due to additional growth of weeds.

If you have any questions, please contact the Rodeo-Hercules Fire Prevention Bureau, (510) 799-4561.

❑ *Annexation continued from page 9*

or EIR), the preparation of land use planning and zoning studies, local public hearings regarding potential land uses and additional public hearings conducted by the Contra Costa County Local Agency Formation Commission (LAFCO). At the conclusion of these steps, the LAFCO Board of Directors will vote to approve or not approve the application. Using the most conservative estimate, it will take at least 18 months to complete the annexation process. Most of that time will be dedicated to the EIR process, which must be accurate and must allow for public comment from a number of agencies and the property owners in the proposed annexation area.

If you have any questions or comments regarding the annexation project please contact Ms. Phyllis Decena at pdecena@ci.hercules.ca.us.

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CITY OF HERCULES - TEEN YOUTH COUNCIL



The Teen/Youth Council is always on the go, supporting and assisting with Community Activities and Special Events. Our energetic group of Teens and Youth demonstrate leadership skills through their presence and participation at City Council meetings, interaction with the Hercules Senior Center, and the planning of Teen/Youth Special Occasions. Every year, the T.Y.C. plans and assists with numerous special events including the Cultural Festival, Community Clean Up Day and Spring Easter Egg Hunt.

If you enjoy working in our community and want to improve your decision making skills, this program is for you! T.Y.C. is a great way to receive community service hours that look great on your **College Application** or **when applying for jobs!** We are presently enrolling members between the 6th and 12th grade for 2009-2010 who attend Hercules Middle/High School or are residents of Hercules so apply today.

Applications are available at the Teen Center, Community/Swim Center or by contacting Janine Shaheed, Teen/Youth Coordinator at (510) 799-8294 or (510) 799-8289.



HERCULES TEEN CENTER
2007 REFUGIO VALLEY RD.
HERCULES, CA 94547

Code: 51601-C Cost: \$30.00—Membership \$20.00—T-Shirt

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¹ Source: 2007 Ad Tracking Study. The survey results are based on 1,216 online interviews with a national random sample of adults (ages 25-54) who are equal decision makers and who have bought or sold a home within the past two years or plan to purchase or sell a home within the next two years. Brand awareness questions are based on a sample of 1,216 respondents with a margin of error of +/- 2.4% at 90% confidence level. The study was conducted between February 19th - October 7th, 2007 by Millward Brown, a leading global market research organization.

² CENTURY 21 System has been named one of the leading organizations among residential real estate systems, according to *Training* magazine's "2007 Training Top 125" list.

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New DBE Requirement Affects City Projects

Late this summer, the City will begin repaving San Pablo Avenue from John Muir Parkway to our northern City limit with Rodeo. This project is funded primarily by monies received from the American Recovery Reinvestment Act (ARRA) passed in February of this year by Congress. While the work being done on San Pablo is typical for any City repaving project, this particular section of road would not have been repaved for several years if special funding had not been available.

All cities with 'shovel ready' projects were able to apply for ARRA funds this past spring. Due to advanced preparation by Hercules staff, the City was able to secure just over \$670,000 for the repaving project. At the time of print, a project bid date, had not been set, however, there is a unique requirement for all federally funded projects that the City wants to let our residents and local business owners know about.

DBE Programs Now Race Conscience

This year, any agency receiving federal aid, must adopt and execute a Race Conscience Disadvantaged Business Enterprise Program, or RC DBE. DBE programs have been around for years, but the Department of Transportation recently completed a disparity study and found under utilization of four groups-Asian Pacific American, Black American, Native American and women. To address this disparity, the Federal government is enforcing RC DBE programs for all agencies receiving federal assistance.

While this may not be important to most residents, it may affect local business owners. Businesses who are certified as a DBE can gain access to federally funded projects such as the San Pablo Repaving Project. The California Unified Certification Program (CUCP) provides certification services to small, minority, and women owned businesses seeking to participate as a DBE in contracts funded by the U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT). The CUCP eliminates the need for DBE firms to obtain certifications from multiple agencies within the State.

If your business meets the following qualifications, you may be able to get certified:

- Must be at least 51% owned by one or more socially

and economically disadvantaged individuals.

- Must be an independent business, and one or more of the socially and economically disadvantaged owners must control its management and daily operations.
- Socially and economically disadvantaged individual means any individual who is a citizen of the United States (or lawfully admitted permanent resident) and who is a member of one of the following groups: Black American, Hispanic American, Native American, Asian-Pacific American, Subcontinent Asian American, or Women or any individual found to be socially and economically disadvantaged on a case-by-case basis by a certifying agency pursuant to the standards of the U.S. DOT 49 CFR Part 26.
- Only existing for-profit "Small Business Concerns," as defined by the Small Business Act and Small Business Administration (SBA) regulations may be certified. The average annual gross receipts for the firm (including its affiliates) over the previous three fiscal years must not exceed the U.S. DOT's cap of \$20.41 million.
- The Personal Net Worth (PNW) of each socially and economically disadvantaged owner must not exceed \$750,000, excluding the individual's ownership interest in the applicant firm and the equity in his/her primary residence.

What This Means For Hercules

The City of Hercules program participation goal is 10.9% for the race conscious component and 2.4% for the race neutral component for a total program participation goal of 13.3%. This means, that for any project with federal funding, the City has a goal to contract with disadvantaged business enterprises for 13.3% of the project dollars. If DBEs do not exist or are not competitive with other contractors for a given project, then the participation percentage may be increased for a different project where DBEs are available and competitive.

The City encourages all business owners who believe they may qualify as a DBE to visit the CUCP's website at www.californiaucp.com to learn more and download a certification application.

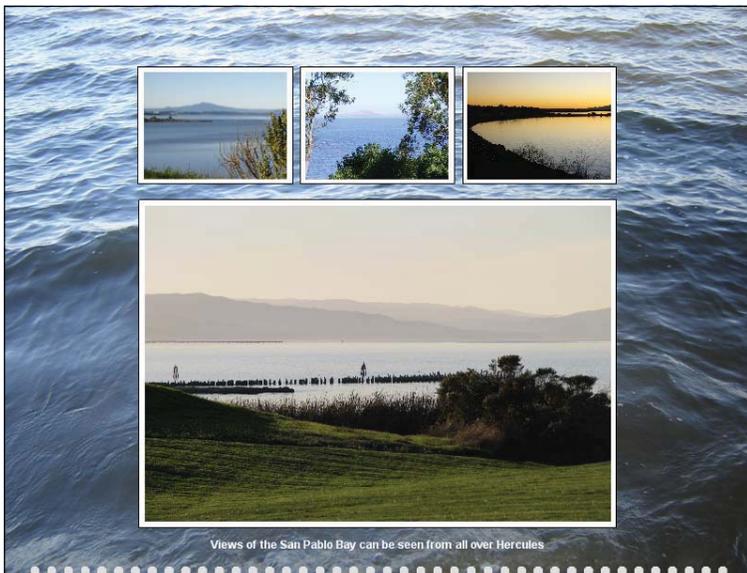
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HPD Teaches Dangers Of Drunk Driving

The United States Centers for Disease Control reports motor vehicle crashes as the leading cause of death for U.S. teens, accounting for more than one in three deaths in this age group (ages 13-19). In 2005, 4,544 teens ages 16 to 19 died of injuries received in motor vehicle accidents. Twenty-three percent of teen drivers ages 15 to 20 who died, had a blood alcohol content of 0.08 or higher. The Hercules Police Department, in conjunction with the California Highway Patrol (CHP) and the California Office of Traffic Safety, are taking a proactive step by educating local high school students about making mature decisions when alcoholic beverages are involved.

Every 15 Minutes Program Encourages Teens To Be Responsible

As a part of this effort, the Hercules Police Department, CHP and Office of Traffic Safety hosted the "Every 15 Minutes" Program at the Hercules High School on May 19 and 20, 2009. The Every 15 Minutes Program is a two day event challenging high school juniors and seniors to think about making mature decisions when it comes to alcoholic beverages and driving.

On the first day of the program, a head on traffic collision was simulat-

ed in the school parking lot, with police, fire and medical personnel responding to the incident. Even a helicopter flew in to take one 'victim' to John Muir Trauma Center in Concord. Students serve as actors in the crash, including one student being arrested for drunk driving. The actors and a group of students, called 'the living dead' are pulled from class and are not seen by their peers or



High school juniors and seniors including "The Living Dead" (pictured above) watch simulated crash unfold

their parents for 24 hours. In addition to not being seen, a mock obituary is read for each student in the class.

The following day, the high school juniors and seniors attend an assembly to watch a video of not just the DUI crash, but of the whole process surrounding a DUI incident, including the arrest



Simulated crash at Hercules High involves eight students, one of which is arrested for driving under the influence

and trial of the drunk driver. The video tells a powerful story of death and destruction of people the students know and is a reminder that the decision to consume alcohol may affect more than just the one who drinks.

Program Provides Hands On Experience For Participants

The students involved in the crash and the "living dead" get an even more intense experience. They play the roles of drunk driver, crash victim, and deceased. They get personal contact with police, fire and other emergency personnel, hearing real stories first hand. These students also attend an overnight retreat where they learn more about the consequences of irresponsible driving and write good-bye letters to their parents, one of which is read the next day at the assembly. Even their parents get involved. On the day of the simulation, a police officer and chaplain deliver a death notification to each parent with a 'deceased' child. That evening, parents are also provided an opportunity to write a good-bye letter to their teen and talk with police personnel about what their teen has experienced.

❑ *Continued on page 20*



Every 15 Minute participants attend an over night retreat and learn more about the consequences of driving under the influence

Everyone Counts

In the early part of the year 2010, every household in Hercules will receive a questionnaire from the United States Census Bureau.

Take the time to fill-out this questionnaire. It's important. Just as your vote was crucial in the 2008 Presidential election, your filling-out and returning this questionnaire to the Census Bureau is equally important.

Why fill out the questionnaire? By law, Congress is required to conduct a counting of all people living in the United States of America. Tax money returning from Congress is based on the number of people residing in an individual city. Gas tax money, highway improvement funding, and grants from the State of California, Contra Costa County and the regional Transportation Authority base how many dollars return to Hercules using the most current population Census count.

Hercules, 2007. In 2007, the U.S. Census Bureau showed the City of Hercules with a population totaling 24,156 persons and 8,192 housing units with the following characteristics:

- Males: 11,644
- Females: 12,512
- Median Age: 37.4

- Race: White: 6,375
- African American: 5,232
- Asian: 11,053
- Other: 1,930

New Neighborhoods. Hercules is one of the few cities in Contra Costa County which is still growing in population with new houses being constructed. New residents are moving into Hercules; other cities in Contra Costa County are experiencing decreasing population with residents leaving their cities, or through mortality. Since 2004, Hercules has constructed five large neighborhoods which were not shown in the last 2000 Federal Census count. These neighborhoods have a total of 1,566 new homes with approximately 4,541 new residents, and include:
The Promenade neighborhood with 217 homes,
The Bayside neighborhood with 337 homes,
The Baywood neighborhood with 76 homes,
The Cottage Lane neighborhood with 56 homes,
The Victoria by the Bay neighborhood with 880 homes.

Your Responsibility. Your participation in the 2010 Census is required by law, but it also helps our community. Please remember to fill out the Census questionnaire and put it in the mail by the deadline.

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Swim Center Remodel Complete

The \$600,000 remodel of the Swim Center is finally finished and open to the Public.

Almost 18 years ago, in July 1991, the center was open to the public. On, July 6, 2009 the Community/Swim Center officially re-opened after 2 ½ months of renovations. The renovations and modernization of the Swim Center was necessary in order to provide an optimum safe aquatic experience. It included the replaster of both pools, replacement of the entire decking area, updating both locker rooms, and replacing the CO2 & chlorine tanks to become Virginia Graeme Baker Pool compliant. Recreational swimmers can once again enjoy the facility.

The Hercules Swim Center is a beautiful place that provides valuable resources to the community of Hercules, by providing a place for families, adults, teens and children to recreate! The Swim Center's programs specialize in fostering human development, strengthening safety and security, promoting health and wellness, and providing recreational experiences. The Swim Center offers swim lessons for children to adults, swim teams- recreational and competitive, lap swims, public swims, water exercise and aquatic specialty classes (lifeguard, water safety, jr guard, title 22 etc). To register or for more information, please visit our website at www.ci.hercules.ca.us.



The main pool at the Hercules Community Swim Center with renovations almost complete

❑ *Every 15 Minutes continued from page 18*

While it is difficult to tell the long term impact of such a program, statistics do show that since the program started, the number of alcohol related incidents have decreased. Furthermore, the feedback from students involved reflects that the program is reaching them. During their debrief meeting one student said, "Going into the Every 15 Minutes Program, I was thinking it was another fun sleep over with people. When the actual program started for real, I noticed how effective and powerful it was." Another wrote, "By observation alone, the impact it made on everyone involved, whether it was students, parents, or faculty, was incredible and needs to be shared."



Teen actor waiting to be helped by emergency personnel



Emergency personnel respond to the simulation as if it were real and take injured victims to the hospital



The deceased victim is covered with a yellow blanket until the coroner arrives

Recent Hercules Fire Due To Lint Build Up

Very few people realize the importance of clothes dryer fire prevention. However, according to the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission, there are an estimated annual 15,500 fires, 10 deaths and 10 injuries due to clothes dryer fires. Several hundred people a year are also subjected to carbon monoxide poisoning from improper dryer vent setups. The financial costs come to nearly \$100,000,000 per year. In some cases faulty appliances are to blame, but many fires can be prevented with proper dryer venting.

How A Clothes Dryer Fire Occurs

Lint accumulation and reduced airflow feed on each other to provide conditions ripe for a fire. Lint is a highly combustible material, which, interestingly enough, is one of the ingredients in a recipe for home-made fire starters. A number of dryer vent problems contribute to this.

A Growing Problem

Traditionally, most clothes dryers were in the basement. However, nowadays many newer homes tend to have dryers located away from an outside wall in bedrooms, bathrooms, kitchens and hall closets. These new locations mean dryers tend to be vented longer distances and vents are generally installed with sharp turns and bends to accommodate the structure of the home. As a result, dryer vents are harder to reach, and also create more places for lint to gather. The ideal solution is to have short, straight, dryer duct venting. However, a dryer vent booster, while not the ideal approach, can improve your dryer venting in cases where your venting is longer and/or has more bends than it should. In addition to

creating a fire hazard, if the venting is too long and/or has too many bends, it will cause your dryer to take much longer than necessary to dry loads.

Inside The Dryer

Lint is the biggest culprit here. As you know from cleaning out your lint filter, dryers produce very large quantities



Hercules residents are encouraged to check their dryer and dryer vent on a regular basis to help prevent a fire in their home

of lint. Most people assume their lint traps catch all the lint, and that all they need to do is clean them out after each load. However, a significant amount of this lint is not caught by the lint trap and builds up inside the dryer—even on the heating element! If you are skeptical, try this experiment: pull out the lint trap and look underneath it—you may find large mounds of lint staring at you. Lint can build up on the heating element and in other places inside the dryer, causing it to overheat and possibly catch fire. As a rule, a fire starts from a spark in the machine. However, improper clothes dryer venting prac-

tics outside the dryer can play a key role in this process.

Outside The Dryer

There are many improper dryer vent practices which restrict airflow and lead to lint buildup, the two main preventable causes of clothes dryer fires.

Some of the most common and important dryer vent mistakes are:

1. Dryer vents are too long and/or have too many bends, but don't use a dryer duct booster, resulting in lint buildup. When it comes to dryer vents, shorter and straighter is better.
2. Use of flammable, flimsy plastic or foil duct extenders. Only metal vents should be used, which is what most manufacturers specify. Metal vents also resist crushing better than plastic and foil, which allows the air and lint to be carried out of the system. Reduced airflow from build-up or crushing can cause overheating and wear out the clothes and appliance faster. In fact, many state and local municipalities have placed requirements on new and remodeling projects to include all metal dryer venting.
3. Inadequate clearance space between dryer and wall. Many people create problems by putting their dryer right against the wall, crushing the venting material in the process. The cumulative effect of reduced airflow and the resulting lint build-up prevent the dryer from drying at the normal rate. This causes the high temperature limit safety switch to cycle on and off to control the heater. Most high temperature limit safety switches were not designed to continuously cycle on and off, so they fail over a period of time.

❑ *Continued on page 22*

□ *Dryer continued from page 21*

4. Failure to clean the dryer duct.

Your Dryer May Be Failing If:

The clothes are taking an inordinately long period of time to dry, come out hotter than usual or if the vent hood flapper doesn't open. Maintenance is needed in these cases.

Ensure Proper Installation And Choice Of Building Materials

1. Make sure the dryer duct is made of solid metallic material. Both vinyl and foil are combustible and spiral-wound surfaces tend to catch lint more readily.
2. The dryer duct should vent to the exterior and in no case should it vent to the attic or crawlspace. Avoid the use of inside heat recovery diverter valves or termination boxes, which do not comply with current standards.
3. Avoid kinking or crushing the dryer duct to make up for installation in tight quarters -this further restricts air-



The entire second floor of the home sustained heavy smoke damage

flow. If you really want to save the extra space, the Dryerbox is a new invention that allows the dryer to be safely installed against the wall.

4. Minimize the length of the exhaust duct (maximum recommended lengths depend on a number of factors, such as number of bends, and vary by model-check with your manufacturer for their specifications). If this is not possible, you can install a dryer duct booster.
5. If at all possible, use 4-inch diameter vent pipe and exterior exhaust hoods that have openings of sixteen square inches or more, which offer the least resistance to air flow.
6. Don't use screws to put your vent pipe together - the screw shafts inside the piping collect lint and cause additional friction.

Keep Duct In Good Condition

Disconnect, clean and inspect the dryer duct run on a regular basis, or hire a professional company to clean the dryer duct. This will reduce the fire hazard, increase the dryer's efficiency and increase its lifespan. In addition, you are less likely to experience water damage.

Keep Your Dryer As Lint-Free As Possible

By keeping your dryer clean, not only will you significantly reduce the fire hazard, you will also save money as your dryer will run more efficiently and last longer.

To keep your dryer clean:

1. Use a lint brush or vacuum attachment to remove accumulated lint from under the



Build up from dryer lint is the expected cause in recent fire

lint trap and other accessible places on a periodic basis.

2. Every 1-3 years, depending upon usage, have the dryer taken apart and thoroughly cleaned out by a qualified service technician.
3. Clean the lint trap after each load.

Alternative Solutions

1. Use a condensing dryer. Unlike conventional clothes dryers, condensing dryers do not require external clothes dryer venting. This significantly reduces the risk of a dryer fire.
2. Use a spin dryer, which uses an extremely fast spin speed to extract water from the clothes. They extract significantly more water from the clothes than a washing machine spin cycle does. Spin dryers can be used alone or in conjunction with a conventional clothes dryer.

Before You Go....

1. Never let your clothes dryer run while you are out of the house or even worse, when you are asleep.
2. Thoroughly read manufacturers' instructions regarding the safe use of their dryers.
3. If all else fails, you can always use an old-fashioned clothesline. There have never been any reported clothesline fires!

Living with Snakes

Snakes are, unfortunately, the subject of much ignorance. And, they are best known to invoke hysteria in many humans anywhere they go. What most people don't know is most snakes are harmless to humans and will go to great lengths to avoid us.

A snake's diet consists of small rodents such as mice, rats, and other mammals. Some will even eat other snakes.

Rattlesnakes are the only venomous snake in California. They can be found throughout North and South America. While thirty species of the rattlesnake are known in California, the Northern Pacific rattlesnake, a subspecies of the western rattlesnake, is the only one indigenous to our County.

If you find a rattlesnake in your yard, the first thing to do is make sure you have properly identified it. The non-venomous gopher snake is often mistaken for a rattlesnake because their defense is to act like a rattlesnake. They are basically the same size - 12 to 48 inches long - and are brown and tan. They beat their tail on the ground imitating a rattlesnake's rattle.

Rattlesnakes are heavy-bodied, with a broad triangular head that is distinctly wider than their neck. They have vertically elliptical pupils and a rattle at the end of their tails. If the rattle is not present, then it is another species of snake. When disturbed, rattlesnakes vibrate their tails.

To improve the chances of never coming face to face with a snake, take the following precautions:

*Remove any food that may attract them, (i.e. pet food, uncovered garbage cans).

*Since snakes primarily feed off of rodents, make your home and grounds rodent-free. Humane trapping can control rodent problems, which in turn, can control snake problems.

*Be sure to plug openings in foundations, walls, steps and porches, to discourage snakes making themselves at home in them.

*Mow lawns and fields. Since snakes cannot survive on hot, bare surfaces, remove lumber, trash, brush, rock piles and anything that might afford shade or hiding places.

*Snakes do not climb, nor do they dig, so installing a tight-

fitting fence can help keep snakes off the property. However, erecting a large outdoor fence is always expensive and may not be feasible.

Snakes do not attack people and rattlesnakes will only strike in defense. The best thing to do if you discover a snake in your yard is to keep all children and pets out of the yard and away from the snake. In a few hours, the snake will leave on its own accord. However, the Rodeo-Hercules Fire Protection District will respond to snake calls if assistance is required.

What do you do if a snake bites you and you don't know what kind of snake it is?

*Look for symptoms. If the area of the bite begins to swell and change color, the snake was probably poisonous. Keep the bitten area still.

You can immobilize the area with an improvised splint made from a board, magazine or other stiff material tied to the limb. Don't tie it too tight - you don't want to reduce blood flow.

*Remove any jewelry or constricting items near the affected area in case of swelling.

*Keep the area of the snake bite lower than the heart.

*Go to a hospital immediately or contact 911.

TIPS:

If bitten by a rattlesnake, DO NOT use ice to cool the bite.

If bitten by a rattlesnake, DO NOT cut open the wound and try to suck out the venom.

If bitten by a rattlesnake, DO NOT use a tourniquet. This will cut off blood flow and the limb may be lost.

Avoid rattlesnakes altogether. If you see one, don't try to get closer to it or catch it.

Keep your hands and feet away from areas where you cannot see, like between rocks or in tall grass where rattlesnakes like to rest.

Reference Numbers:

Rodeo-Hercules Fire Protection District - 510-799-4561

CCC Animal Services Department - 510-374-3966

California Poison Control Hotline - 1-800-222-1222



A Northern Pacific Rattlesnake
Courtesy of Ken-ichi Ueda

Sign Ordinance Keeps City Safe And Clean

During the summer months, residents may notice an increase in open houses and garage sales, which also means an increase in signs. While some of these signs are legal, many of them are not. The City of Hercules maintains a tough, but fair sign ordinance to keep pedestrians safe, traffic moving, and reduce wear and tear on streetlights and electrical poles. The sign ordinance limits the type of signs that can be used and the location of signs for all areas within the city limits.

The most commonly violated sections of the sign ordinance relate to garage sale and open house signs. Since there are usually more yard sales and open houses during the warmer months, the City would like to remind you of the key sections of the ordinance related to these signs:

- All open house signs must be “A-frame” in design, and limited to 30 inches in height.
- Lawn, yard or garage sale signs are prohibited on all state or city owned properties or utility poles.
- Open House signs may only be displayed during the period when the property is available for public showing. Lawn, yard or garage sale signs shall not be posted more than 24 hours before and after the event.
- Each major arterial/collector street corner is limited to a maximum of three temporary off-site residential real estate signs. Secondary and residential street are limited to a maximum of two temporary real estate signs per corner.
- Signs may not be placed in the public right-of-way including center divides, medians, sidewalks, bicycle or pedestrian paths or within sixteen feet from the curb returns



Streetlight poles become more and more damaged over time due to signs being taped to them

on all intersections. Signs shall be placed behind the sidewalk if the sidewalk is adjacent to the curb or in the landscaped parkway if the parkway is adjacent to the curb.

- Signs may be placed on private property only after first obtaining permission from the property owner.
- No commercial, retail, industrial, “dot-com” related business or advertising shall be permitted in the landscaped medians, City right-of-way, sidewalks, traffic signals, public utility poles, or light standards.

The City requires anyone placing a sign within city limits, regardless of residency,

to abide by the sign ordinance. To view the complete ordinance, visit the Planning Department’s ‘Land Use & Zoning Ordinance’ page on our website at www.ci.hercules.ca.us, under the Departments and Services menu.

We understand residents and real estate agents want to draw attention to their sale or open house, however by reducing the number of signs allowed at each intersection, the City has balanced the need of homeowners with the need to keep our roadways safe. Eliminating unnecessary wear and tear on our streetlights and electrical poles by keeping them free from unsightly signs, tape, and staples, is another important reason for the ordinance.

The City of Hercules Building Division is responsible for enforcing the sign ordinance and will remove any sign that is not in compliance. So remember to follow the ordinance and help ensure your event gets recognized by potential patrons, and not a Code Enforcement Officer.



Open House signs must be off the sidewalk and at least 16 feet away from the curb return



Signs that do not follow the sign ordinance may be removed

Construction Begins On Community Garden

Hercules Sustainable Community Garden Foundation (HSCGF) has been partnering with the City of Hercules since Spring 2008 to develop a community garden program in our city.

The Hercules City Council has provided the initial funding for infrastructure development at the main garden center, which is already under construction. The main garden center will be located in the previously undeveloped area of Ohlone Park above the baseball field. The HSCGF's Mission is to promote and support sustainable, organic community and school gardens in Hercules and the surrounding communities, and to provide educational classes on sustainable, organic gardening techniques to the local community.

Garden To Maintain Our Cultural

Community gardens can play an important role in establishing a sense of community identity and culture. They contribute to the overall "look and feel" of a community, creating new venues in which local residents can meet and interact. Even non-gardeners will enjoy walking through a peaceful garden, observing nature's passage from seed to harvest. The main garden center will be a multi-use facility and include leased garden plots where local residents can grow their own vegetables and flowers, a school garden program similar to the Edible Schoolyard program in Berkeley, and a gardening edu-



cation center that will provide classes on topics such as composting, organic gardening, fruit tree pruning, growing heirloom tomatoes and starting a winter vegetable garden. Over the next few years, the City and HSCGF hope to add greenhouse facilities, a small orchard, and perhaps a mini vineyard at the main garden center. The HSCGF will celebrate the diversity within our community by developing a series of cultural gardens that remind us of our heritage. Once the main garden center is complete, there are plans to expand the garden network to include smaller, local gardens scattered throughout the city.

An Alternative To Rising Prices, Unhealthy Food, And Poor Nutrition

With the increased price of gas and food and concern over food safety, you should consider growing your own

organic vegetables at the Community Garden Center. This garden program will celebrate the multicultural and multi-generational diversity within our city in addition to providing a place for all Herculeans to grow their own fruits and vegetables.

Gardeners Encouraged To Share Knowledge and Experience

The HSCGF encourages our older generations to share gardening secrets with young people, expert gardeners to educate novice gardeners, and specialist gardeners to introduce us to exciting new topics. They encourage heirloom and ethnic gardens that celebrate cultural history and cuisine to help maintain a connection to our heritage. They value native plant gardening that helps maintain our ecosystem and sustain the environment. If you are interested in participating in an upcoming garden construction work day or leasing a plot, please contact the HSCGF at HCGP@comcast.net or visit their website at <http://sites.google.com/site/herculesgardening>.



Work parties are taking place every weekend to get garden in tip-top shape

THE HERCULEAN

Advertising Contract

Please complete and return pages 1 and 2 of the advertising contract.

1. DESIGN:

- CAMERA-READY color advertisement
- SUBMIT ADVERTISEMENT on a CD or via e-mail. Ad returned only upon request.

2. UPCOMING ARTICLE SUBMITTAL DUE DATES:

- Summer** Friday, May 15, 2009 (July publication)
- Fall** Friday, September 18, 2009 (November publication)
- Spring** Friday, January 15, 2010 (March publication)

3. ADVERTISEMENT SIZES AND COST:

Please select one of the following advertisement sizes:

<input type="checkbox"/> Inside-Eighth Page	(3 1/2" W x 1 1/2" H)	\$175.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Inside-Quarter Page	(3 1/2" W x 2 1/2" H)	\$250.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Inside-Half Page	(7" W x 4 1/2" H)	\$325.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Inside Full Page	(7" W X 8 3/4" H)	\$600.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Inside Front/Back Cover Full Page	(7" W X 8 3/4" H)	\$650.00
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* Hercules Community Non-Profit organizations recognized by the Hercules Community Services Commission will receive a FREE one page ad per calendar year. Increased rates effective July 1, 2009.

4. METHOD OF PAYMENTS:

- Check or money order (please make payable to the City of Hercules)
- Master Card or Visa (credit card payments must be made in person at City Hall). As of 7/25/07, per City Council Resolution No. 07-116, processing of credit card payments will include an additional \$2.00 per \$100 or increment thereof.

5. MAIL PAYMENT AND AD TO:

City of Hercules
111 Civic Drive
Hercules, CA 94547
Attention: Herculean Advertising
Phone: (510) 245-6533 Fax: (510) 799-2521

THE HERCULEAN Advertising Contract

PLEASE PRINT

NAME/BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION

ADDRESS

STREET

STATE/ZIP CODE

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FAX NUMBER

CONTACT PERSON

PHONE

RETURN ORIGINAL AD

YES

NO

SIGNATURE

DATE

FOR INTERNAL USE ONLY

DATE PAYMENT RECEIVED

DATE AD RECEIVED

SIGNATURE

TITLE

"Are You Ready?"

**City Of Hercules
Community Awareness &
Disaster Preparedness Event**

**Home Depot Parking Lot
(Next to the Hercules Farmers Market)**

FREE

Saturday, August 1, 2009

3:30pm - 7:00pm

FIRE

FLOOD

EARTHQUAKE

TERRORISM

Join us for the City of Hercules Community Awareness & Disaster Preparedness event. Do you know what your local agencies have to offer in a disaster? Make sure you and your family are prepared.

Come Learn About:

- * Hercules Police Department
- * Rodeo Hercules Fire Department
- * C.E.R.T. Program
- * National Night Out
- * Crime Prevention
- * Animal Shelter
- * Red Cross
- * Disaster Preparedness
- * Fire and Safety Prevention
- * Neighborhood Watch
- * Emergency Kits and Disaster Plan Instructions

Entertainment, Farmers Market and Raffle Prize Drawings

For more information please call 510-799-8230

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