

**City Manager's Bi-Weekly Report  
August 22, 2014**

**David Biggs, City Manager**



**OFFICE OF THE CITY MANAGER**

**City Manager Evaluation Process:** Part of my annual evaluation process with the City Council each year requires that I develop and share goals with them at the start of the year. On Tuesday evening next week I will be providing the City Council with my proposed initial year performance evaluation plan goals as required by my employment agreement. This appears on the agenda as a Personnel Closed Session item. I am looking forward to working with the Council and to being evaluated each year, though in my first year there will also be a six-month evaluation as well.

**Financial Principles & Policies:** One of the items on the City Council meeting agenda for next week are a set of Financial Principles and Policies which I am proposing that the City Council review and consider adopting at a future meeting. The introduction of the Financial Principles and Policies states:

Establishing certain generalized principles governing the financial affairs of the City is desirable to guide both the financial management and financial planning for the City. The City of Hercules is accountable to its citizens, employees, and other stakeholders for the use of public funds and the best management of resources. These Financial Principles will provide City staff with guidance in preparing and submitting the annual budget for the City and in the preparation of financial forecasts. The adoption of certain financial policies is necessary and appropriate to implement the financial principles and to help ensure financial sustainability and to improve the City's credit worthiness and bond rating.

As the City continues down the path of financial recovery, thanks in great part to the voter approval of two much needed local tax measures, we are committed to being responsible stewards of the public resources entrusted to us. These proposed Financial Principles and Policies are designed to keep us on track.

**Water Restrictions:** East Bay MUD had announced water restrictions with which the City must comply. They include:

- Limit watering of outdoor landscapes to two times per week maximum and prevents excess runoff.
- Use only hoses with shutoff nozzles to wash vehicles.
- Use a broom or air blower, not water, to clean hard surfaces such as driveways and sidewalks, except as needed for health and safety purposes.
- Turn off any fountain or decorative water feature unless the water is recirculated

The City's has started to reprogram our irrigation timers in all landscaped areas which the City maintains. Unfortunately, we will begin to see some impact to the appearance of landscape areas, especially lawns, in a few weeks. We hope that the drought situation ends soon, but in the meantime please support our conservation efforts.

**Muir Pointe Project:** The City will close escrow on the sale of Parcel C which is along John Muir Parkway south of Alfred Nobel to Lewis Homes next week. Lewis Homes will be developing 144 homes on the parcel with construction to start in by mid-2015. The development of this key parcel will assist in knitting together the bay front and assists in the resolution of redevelopment related issues as we complete the dissolution process for redevelopment as mandated by the State of California.

**Farmer's Market Closes for the Season Early:** The Hercules Farmer's Market which took place on Saturday afternoons in the Home Depot center parking lot has closed before the normal October end of the season. Unfortunately, the level of attendance was not sufficient to attract the vendors. We will be working with the organizers on a fresh start for the spring perhaps on a different day and time.

## **PLANNING DEPARTMENT**

### **Building Division**

Number of permits issued: 20  
Building permit fees collected: \$6,829.70  
Number of inspections: 11

## **PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT**

### **Engineering Division**

PERMITS: 8/3-8/16

#### **Sewer Lateral Inspection Program:**

- Number of application received: 1
- Sewer Lateral Inspection Fees Collected: \$125
- Number of Certifications issued: 1
- Number of Deficiency Notices issued: 1
- Number of Condominium Waivers issued: 0

**Wide Load/Transportation Permits Issued: 2**

**Encroachment Permits Issued: 6**

## **PARKS AND RECREATION**

The Parks & Recreation Department offers a wide variety of recreation classes and programs that cater to all ages and help to promote a healthy lifestyle. Classes and programs provide a great opportunity to have fun and exercise while interacting with others in a safe environment. A sampling of classes offered is provided below. For additional information, to access a full listing of classes and programs or to register, please visit the City website at [www.ci.hercules.ca.us](http://www.ci.hercules.ca.us) or register online at [www.herculesrec.com](http://www.herculesrec.com) today.

**Parks & Recreation Fall Activity Guide:** The Fall/Winter guide has been released. There are many new programs inside which include theater, sports, and holiday events that Hercules Parks & Recreation has to offer.

**Facilities:** The City of Hercules offers several conveniently located facilities to rent for your meeting, wedding reception, graduation, retirement or baptism. Halls range from a capacity of 10 to our largest which has a maximum capacity of 300. Visit the City website at [www.ci.hercules.ca.us](http://www.ci.hercules.ca.us) or call (510) 799-8291 for more information on facility locations, dates available and amenities offered at each location.

**Parks & Recreation Advertisement Programs:** Applications for advertisement in our Parks and Recreation activity guide publications are now being accepted. Reservations continue to be accepted for available spaces in the City's banner placement program and our signboard advertisement opportunities. Please contact Andrea Mendez at (510) 799-8290 or at [amendez@ci.hercules.ca.us](mailto:amendez@ci.hercules.ca.us) for additional information or to submit applications.

**Sports Programs:** Our programs help promote a healthy lifestyle, while providing an environment in which people of all ages can enjoy themselves. Whether it is recreation team sports you are seeking, or an individual leisure activity/hobby, the City of Hercules is proud to offer it. To access a full listing of classes or to register, please visit our website at [www.herculesrec.com](http://www.herculesrec.com).

The City of Hercules Parks & Recreation Department and the Hercules Education Foundation are partnering together to offer a Golf Tournament at Franklin Canyon Golf Course on Friday, September 12, 2014 with a tee time of 12:00 p.m. Best Ball Scramble with a Shotgun Start. \$90.00 per player will include green fees, cart, box lunch, prizes & dinner. Bring a friend for dinner for only \$20.00. Sign up online at [www.herculesrec.com](http://www.herculesrec.com) or call (510) 799-8291 today! If you are interested in sponsorship opportunities contact Andrea Mendez at (510) 799-8290.

**Recreation Classes:** We are now accepting registration for many new and exciting classes that cater to all ages and help to promote a healthy lifestyle. Our classes provide a great opportunity to have fun while interacting with others in a safe environment. To access a full listing of classes or to register, please visit the City website at [www.ci.hercules.ca.us](http://www.ci.hercules.ca.us).

**Teens:** Our goal is to provide programming that will foster human development, promote health and wellness, and increase cultural unity with life experiences. As our youth grow into teens, we want to give them a sense of ownership and belonging to the community. We accomplish this through the many enjoyable programs and activities available at the Teen Center, 2007 Refugio Valley Road. Registration is now being accepted for the Fall T.H.E. S.P.O.T. (Teens of Hercules Empowering

through Spirit, Perseverance, Outreach, & Teamwork), before and after school program.

- Don't forget to sign up for T.H.E. S.P.O.T. fall program! Please make sure to register early because space is limited.

**Seniors/50+:** Come to the Senior Center to enjoy the CC Café, or to participate in an Art Class, Card Club, Ping Pong, Tai Chi, Zumba Gold, Low Impact Exercise Classes, Dance Club, or Hula Dance. Your annual membership of \$20.00 gives you access to over 30 classes and programs at a discounted rate.

**Aquatics:** With the end of the summer season we are still offering some individual swim lessons for the fall but space is limited so make sure to sign up today. Call us at (510) 799-8291 to check availability.

**Tiny Tots & Little Learners:** A great introduction to your child's "First Learning Experience". They will have fun making their first school friends, learning through play, games, arts and crafts. Our loving and qualified staff will guide them in socialization and self-help skills. Children have so much fun; they do not realize they are learning! Our program runs with the school year, September-June. Come see what keeps our children smiling! Children must be completely toilet trained.

- Tiny Tot program has a 5 day Jr. Kindergarten program
- M-W-F Pre K Program
- T/TH Little Learner Program

**Licensed Before & After School Child Care:** The new school year is upon us and there are limited spots available, if you are interested in the program feel free to give us a call at (510) 245-4803 today.

What are the benefits of our licensed programs?

- They provide a safe and nurturing environment
- They provide a qualified and mature staff
- All lead staff members have training in school age programming through accredited colleges
- They provide a 1 staff to 14 children ratio, not to exceed 28 children per classroom
- All staff have passed a Livescan/Background check

### **UPCOMING EVENTS\***

*\*Events are subject to change. Please visit the City Calendar available on the City's website for the most up-to-date information.*

**Community and Library Services Commission Meeting:** Monday, September 8, 2014, 7:00 p.m., Hercules City Hall, Council Chambers.

**Hercules Golf Tournament:** Friday, September 19, 2014, 12:00 p.m. Best Ball Scramble with a Shotgun Start. Driving Range: at 10:30 a.m. Tee Time at 12:00 p.m. Tournament fees includes green fees, cart, box lunch, prizes & dinner.

## POLICE DEPARTMENT



On August 5, 2014 at 10:28 a.m. an officer took a report of a possible fraud involving a house for rent. The victim said she recently responded to an online Craigslist ad for a house for rent in the 1900 block of Pheasant Dr. On August 4, 2014, the victim met an Asian/White male adult at the house. The suspect told the victim his name was Eric and he was managing the investment property for his father. The suspect allowed the victim access to the home so she could view it. The victim told the suspect she was interested in renting the home. The suspect had the victim fill out a credit application and give it to him. The suspect said the reporting party would also need to provide \$1,500 cash, or cashier's check, for a security deposit. The victim agreed to give the suspect a deposit at a later time. The victim told a friend, who is a real estate agent, about the house she was planning to rent. The friend told the victim the house is currently for sale, and it was unlikely the house was up for rent. The reporting party contacted the Hercules Police, believing she was the victim of a real estate scam.

The reporting officer determined the house is currently listed for sale, from a licensed Realtor. The property owner just accepted a buyer's offer August 4, 2014. The officer found a sign post, in the front yard, but there was no for sale sign hanging from the post. The victim agreed to assist Hercules Police to attempt to apprehend the suspect. The victim arranged a meeting with the suspect, for Tuesday evening, to pay him the \$1,500 security deposit. The meeting was to take place at the house on Pheasant Dr.

On August 5, 2014, at approximately 8:30pm, officers staked out the house in the 1900 block of Pheasant Dr. The suspect drove up and parked his car across the street from the house. The suspect drove off, prior to the victim's arrival. The suspect vehicle was stopped for a traffic violation. The victim positively identified the driver as the male who fraudulently agreed to rent her the house on Pheasant Dr. Officer's located the "For Sale Sign", which had been in front of the house, in the back seat of the suspect's vehicle. Officers found "For Sale" flyers and the plastic display box the Realtor placed inside the house, in the suspect's car. The suspect also had completed rental agreements from four different victims.

21 year old Gino Eckstein, of San Francisco, was arrested and charged with Residential Burglary; Possession of Stolen Property; Renting Property Under False Pretenses; and Identity Theft. It was later determined Eckstein is currently out on bail, for Felony Charges, in San Francisco. An enhancement was added for that charge. He was transported to the Martinez Detention Facility.

Another victim contacted the Hercules Police on August 5, 2014. She also replied to the Craigslist ad for the house in the 1900 block of Pheasant Dr. This victim also filled out a credit application, and gave it to a person matching the description of the suspect described by the first victim. The suspect asked this victim to meet him Tuesday night, in Richmond, to give him the \$1,500 security deposit. That meeting did not take place.

Officers believe there maybe additional victim's of this "Rental Scam". If you answered a Craigslist ad, and had contact with an "Eric ", or an Eric Stegner, about renting a house, please contact the Hercules Police Department, Detective Pesmark, at 510-799-8223; or Dispatch at 510-724-1111.

**False Report of an Explosive Device:** On August 15, 2014 at 6:47 p.m. officers responded to a report of a suspicious note left beside an ATM machine in the 1500 block of Sycamore. "Bomb In ATM" was written on the front of a bank receipt dated 8/15/14. On the back of the receipt was "The Bomb is in the Atm". The business was subsequently evacuated, the parking lot taped off and vehicle/pedestrian traffic was redirected as necessary. Notification was made to Walnut Creek PD's bomb squad. A BART PD explosive sniffing K9 responded to assist and did not locate any explosive and/or explosive material. At the conclusion of the K9 search a walk-through with a bank employee was also conducted before re-opening the business and surrounding area. Evidence was collected and the investigation is open with leads being followed to identify the perpetrator.

**Hate Crime:** On August 16, 2014 at 11:32am an officer was dispatched to the 400 block of North Wildwood for a report of "Hate Mail" found in the mailbox. The USPS mail carrier located a sheet of paper with racially motivated writing of a threatening manner in a mailbox. The mailbox is associated with an address where the residents are African American. This case is open and under investigation.

### **PREVENT VEHICLE BREAK-INS!**

Auto burglary is a crime of opportunity. Don't give the crooks the chance to take advantage of you! Below are some tips to help you avoid becoming a victim.

**DON'T leave ANYTHING visible in your vehicle! Criminals will** break into your vehicle to take something that might have zero to little monetary value. If you must leave items in your car, put them in the center console, glove compartment, trunk, or anywhere out of sight.

**PARK** your vehicle in your garage or some other indoor secured parking area when at all possible. If you are parking in a public place try to park your vehicle in an area of high visibility. Stay away from areas of concealment such as alleyways or behind bushes. **Lock** your doors and roll up your windows!

# Fake IRS collectors are calling

April 7, 2014

by Lisa Lake

Consumer Education Specialist, FTC

This time of year is often *taxing* for many consumers. Scams aimed at stealing taxpayers' money make the season more stressful.

The Treasury Inspector General for Taxpayer Administration (TIGTA) warns that crooks posing as Internal Revenue Service (IRS) officials are contacting people claiming they owe taxes. The caller demands a prepaid debit card, wire transfer or a credit card number for payment. If the person doesn't comply, the caller threatens to arrest or deport the target, or take away their driver's license or business.

Thousands of victims have lost money to these tax scam artists. But there are ways to recognize them and foil their attempts to steal your money.

These scammers often:

- call you. But when the IRS contacts people about unpaid taxes, they do it by postal mail, not by phone
- use common names and fake IRS badge numbers
- know the last four digits of your Social Security number
- demand payment via a prepaid debit card or wire transfer. The IRS doesn't ask for either of these payment methods, nor will they ask for credit card numbers.
- rig caller ID information to appear as if the IRS really is calling
- send fake emails that look like legitimate IRS correspondence
- make a second call claiming to be the police or department of motor vehicles, rigging the caller ID information

To protect yourself from imposters who call, claiming to be from the IRS:

- don't provide any account or other personal information. Hang up the phone.
  - never wire money to a person or company you don't know. Once you wire money, you can't get it back.
  - if you owe - or think you owe - federal taxes, call the IRS at 800-829-1040. IRS workers can help you with your payment questions. You also can visit the IRS website at [irs.gov](http://irs.gov).
  - if you've already paid your taxes, call and report the incident to TIGTA at 800-366-4484.
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# *Still Time to Join!*

## Hercules Police Department Citizen's Police Academy

*Are you up for a Challenge?*



Learn how to conduct traffic stops and learn about officer safety



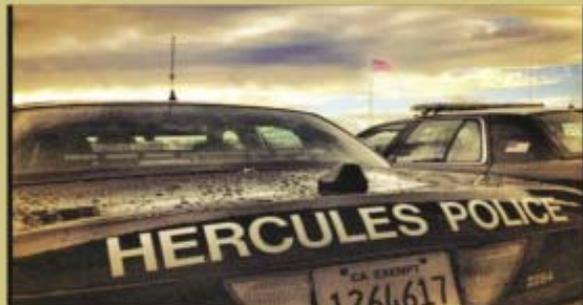
Traffic Collision Investigation



Conduct Crime Scene Processing



Participate in Tactical



*EXPERIENCE WHAT IT FEELS LIKE TO BE THE PERSON  
"BEHIND THE BADGE"*

The Hercules Police Department will be holding a Citizen's Police Academy in the fall from Sept. 6<sup>th</sup> through Oct. 18<sup>th</sup>, 2014. Classes will be held on Saturdays, with both morning and afternoon sessions.

When you join the Hercules Citizen's Police Academy, you will experience some of the same training that our officers receive:

- Police procedures, priorities, and techniques of law enforcement in the community
- Participate in training to include: patrol procedures, crime scene investigation, identity theft and internet crime, Narcotics, DUI investigation, Emergency Preparedness and more
- Experience the Driving Simulator as well as experience the Shoot Don't Shoot Simulator
- Tour the Martinez Detention Facility
- Special Response Team Training / Activity

The Hercules Citizen's Police Academy program is limited to 25 students. If you are interested in being part of this exciting experience, you may obtain a City Application at the Hercules City Hall, 111 Civic Avenue, or at [www.ci.hercules.ca.us](http://www.ci.hercules.ca.us) Complete the application and forward it to Officer Sanchez or Police Volunteer Steve Kirby at the Hercules Police Department by August 15<sup>th</sup>. For more information or for inquiries about the academy, please contact Officer Sanchez or Police Volunteer Kirby at (510) 799-8260.

**HERCULES POLICE BI-WEEKLY STATS  
(08-07-14-14 TO 08-20-14)**

CALLS FOR SERVICE	688
REPORTS	84
TRAFFIC CITES	35
PARKING CITES	30
ADULT ARRESTS	30
JUVENILE ARRESTS	1
ARSONS	0
DOMESTIC VIOLENCE REPORTS	1
HATE CRIMES	1
TOWED VEHICLES	22
PART 1 TOTAL	13

PART 1 CRIMES BROKEN DOWN	----
HOMICIDE	0
RAPE	0
ROBBERY	1
ASSAULT	3
BURGLARY	0
LARCENY	7
MOTOR VEHICLE THEFT	2

**UPCOMING EVENTS\***

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**Hercules Certified Farmer's Market CANCELLED:** The Farmer's Market has been cancelled. Unfortunately, due to low community attendance the vendors of the market have informed the contractor that they would no longer continue working in Hercules.

**Hercules City Council Meeting:** Tuesday, August 26, 2014, 7:00 p.m., Hercules City Hall, Council Chambers

**Community and Library Services Commission Meeting:** Monday, September 8, 2014, 7:00 p.m., Hercules City Hall, Council Chambers.