

**City Manager's Bi-Weekly Report
November 28, 2014**

David Biggs, City Manager



OFFICE OF THE CITY MANAGER

Thanksgiving

Our uniquely American Thanksgiving Holiday takes place this week and I believe we have much to be thankful here in Hercules. Yes, the community and City organization have been through some tough times, but we are blessed with a great location and beautiful setting in one of the world's most dynamic regions. Our voters have enough belief and love for their community to have approved two local tax measures to help preserve services. We have a great team of employees who have stuck with it and gone the mile over the past few years. We are seeing some improvement in our revenues, and there is much potential to see development in the community which will further these revenues and which will complete Hercules in a way which will be the envy of many a community. So as you take time to be with family and friends, pause for a moment and add the community of Hercules, your fellow residents, and our City employees to your thoughts of thanksgiving as I will be doing with my family, together with giving thanks for being able to serve as your City Manager here in Hercules.

City Hall will be closed for the Thanksgiving Holiday starting tomorrow Wednesday, November 26th.

Leila by the Bay

Leila by the Bay on Railroad Avenue has announced they are now open for lunch on Wednesdays through Sundays in addition to being open for dinner every night. If you haven't tried out our latest dining experience, please do so soon.

City Council Transition

You are cordially invited to attend the December 9th City Council meetings at which Myrna de Vera will be sworn in for another term and newly elected Chris Kelley will be sworn in as a City Council Member. We will be saying farewell to and thanking Council Member John Delgado for his service as he chose not to seek re-election this year. Also, the Council will be selecting one of its members to serve as Mayor for the next year. The meeting will start at 7 PM.

Alexandria at Victoria by the Bay

The model home for Alexandria at Victoria by the Bay community is scheduled to be completed and open just after the first of the year. More information can be found at: www.cityventures.com/hercules

Town Centrale Update

You may also be seeing some pre-construction activity in the Town Centrale site, the partially completed mixed-use building on Sycamore. The developer has repaired all of the Tyvec covering which had become unsightly and wind damaged. Plan check is proceeding for the final building permits which should be issued soon.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT

Planning Division

Safeway Public Hearing at the Monday December 15, 2014 Planning Commission at 7:00pm

The Sycamore Crossing Project (aka Safeway Project) has been scheduled for public hearing on 12/15/2014. The agenda has been posted to the City's website with the environmental information out for public review. It is anticipated that the drawings, staff reports, and draft resolutions recommending City Council actions will be posted a week before the meeting. Several iterations have been made to the project based on public input and Planning Commission Design Review.

Administrative Use Permits Approved for New Businesses

- Temporary Use Permit for Home Depot Christmas Tree Lot at 1625 Sycamore Avenue
- Temporary Use Permit for ABC Tree Farms Christmas Tree Lot on the corner of Sycamore and San Pablo Avenues
- Marshmallow Bar home occupation to be located at 208 Sparrow Drive

Building Inspection Division

	Nov 07 thru Nov 21, 2014	FY 2014/15 YTD
Number of the permits issued:	27	431
Total Fee Collected:	\$24,777.10	\$184,524.37
Number of Inspections:	11	182
New Housing:	0	1

PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT

- Staff continues work on City ITC Project.
- Staff continues to work with Ducks Unlimited on Chelsea Wetlands Restoration Project.
- Installation of LED replacement lights completed. Our staff is working with PG&E for reimbursement.

- PG&E repaired numerous streetlights around town.
- Street light knocked down by traffic accident Refugio Valley Road by the Swim Center.
- Staff repaired numerous streetlights around town.
- Staff continues to work with State Water Resources Control Board on Waste Water Treatment Plant upgrades.
- Staff continues to meet with WCCIWMA on Solid Waste issues.
- Staff working with various developers on future developments.
- Numerous street median noses painted with reflective paint by staff.
- Staff working with contractors on raccoon and skunk damage to turf areas in Victoria by the Bay.
- Staff awaiting quotes to replace stolen streetlight wiring on San Pablo Avenue (under repair by contractor).
- Debris from damaged structure on Railroad Avenue removed by contractor.

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 or register online at www.herculesrec.com today.

- Parks & Recreation Office/ Community Center will be closed in Observance of Thanksgiving Holiday from November 26th - 28th.
- Look for your Parks & Recreation Winter/Spring Activity Guide. They were mailed out this past weekend.

Advertising Opportunities: Advertising with Hercules Parks & Recreation is a great way to get your business out there to all community members of Hercules and surrounding cities letting them know what you have to offer. We offer banners and signboard reservations in different locations that have ability to assist with marketing. There are 4 different locations within the City where City-authorized advertising banners may be placed to assist with the promotion of businesses, programs, and events. There are 7 different locations where signboards are placed throughout the City for advertisement purposes. Signboards are used as a great way to promote an event and/or program

throughout the city. This is one of the most popular ways to get people's attention. The sizes of the signboards are 23x31 inches and we print them in house. Call us today at (510) 799-8291 to take advantage of these opportunities.

Parks & Recreation Summer 2015 Activity Guide – Are you interested in having your business or company advertised in our summer 2015 edition of the activity guide? Hercules Parks & Recreation prints and distributes 10,000 copies and is sent out to all residents in Hercules. Advertising with us is a great way to get your business out there to all community members of Hercules and letting them know what you have to offer. Call Andrea Mendez at (510) 799-8291 today!

New Guide Feature Application! – The City of Hercules Parks & Recreation Department has now released their electronic version of the Winter/Spring 2015 Activity Guide. You may look online at www.ci.hercules.ca.us for the most up to date classes and new programs that will be offered in 2015.

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 or call (510) 799-8291 for more information on facility locations, dates available and amenities offered at each location.

New Recreation Classes: Hercules Parks & Recreation is always interested in bringing on new programs, classes and services for the community to enjoy. Please contact Andrea Mendez at (510) 799-8290 or amendez@ci.hercules.ca.us for additional information or to submit applications of interest.

Parks & Recreation Online System - Hercules Parks & Recreation online registration system (www.herculesrec.com) has been updated. Make sure to take a look at the new site with improved features. If you have any questions feel free to contact recreation offices at (510) 799-8291.

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.

Jr. Golf Lessons-5 Participants
Basketball League-101 Participants
Volleyball Club-32 Participants

Recreation Classes: We have classes that are ongoing year round which include yoga, zumba, piano and guitar! To access a full listing of classes or to register, please visit the City website at www.ci.hercules.ca.us.

Zumba-80 Participants
Little Dragons-13 Participants
Karate-23 Participants

Tahitian Dance Class-10 Participants

Ballet/Tap-10 Participants

Yoga-5 Participants

Math- 3 Participants

Gymnastics-25 Participants

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.

- The Senior Center will be Closed for the Thanksgiving Holiday November 27 & 28, 2014

Aquatics: 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 will be Closed for the Thanksgiving Holiday November 26th – 28th, 2014

Lap Swim:

Monday – Friday: 6:30 p.m. – 7:30 p.m.

Ages: 14+

Fees: Resident: Youth & Senior \$4/ Adult \$5

Non-Resident: Youth & Senior \$5/ Adult \$6

EBSD Year Round Membership: The City of Hercules East Bay Silver Dolphins is a USA swimming team that practices & competes year-round! The team & coaches are dedicated to fostering a positive and challenging environment for athlete growth in the East Bay! Swimmers will have fun while improving their skills, sportsmanship, and self-esteem. EBSD believes that while swimming is fun and great exercise, it also teaches important life skills such as self-motivation, the importance of hard work and dedication, setting and obtaining personal goals, and time management. Each swimmer is an important part of the team. They learn to have fun together and provide encouragement and motivation for their teammates: **64 enrolled**

Dates: 10/1/14 – 9/31/15

USA Registration Fee: Year Round Swimmer \$80.00 (made payable to EBSD)

Code: 52200-A-L

Spinners: Monday – Thursday: 6:30 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.

Fee: \$66.00

Intermediate: Monday – Friday: 5:00 p.m. – 6:15 p.m.

Fee: \$83.00

Advanced: Monday – Friday: 5:00 p.m. – 6:30 p.m. / 7:00 p.m.

Fee: \$94.00

EBSD Fall Membership: 11 enrolled

Date: 9/29/14-12/19/14

USA Registration Fee: Year Round Swimmer \$80 (made payable to EBSD)

Code: 52200-M

Spinners: Monday – Thursday: 6:30 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.

Intermediate: Monday – Friday: 5:00 p.m. – 6:15 p.m.

Advanced: Monday – Friday: 5:00 p.m. - 6:30 p.m. / 7:00 p.m.

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, “T.H.E. S.P.O.T.” (Teens of Hercules Empowering through Spirit, Perseverance, Outreach, & Teamwork) located at 2007 Refugio Valley Road. Registration is now being accepted for the Fall S.P.O.T. Before and After school program.

- T.H.E. S.P.O.T. program is doing really well. We picked up 2 more teens this past week on a 5 day schedule. Our total now exceeds over 30 teens for the program. Our environmental club is starting to plant some herbs and vegetables with the help of Nita Sexton from the Ohlone Community Garden. She has been assisting our teens with information and techniques needed to grow a successful garden. Nita has also been providing support for our staff on how to get donations and ideas of how to fundraise to raise money for the teen garden.
- We are also preparing for our next in-service day which is scheduled for November 26, 2014.
- The teens will be off for the Thanksgiving Holiday November 27 & 28, 2014.

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, and 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
- Monday, Wednesday, Friday: Pre-K Program
- Tuesday/Thursday: Little Learner Program
- Tiny Tots will be off for the Thanksgiving Holiday November 27 & 28, 2014.

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
- Child Care will be off for the Thanksgiving Holiday November 27 & 28, 2014.

In-Service Days

Parents can sign up now for one of the In-Service days on November, 26th. Site location will be at the Lupine Child Care. Pick up a registration form at one of the Child Care sites or at the Community/Swim Center.

- We have 34 children signed up for the November 26th, 2014 In-Service Day

Winter Camp

Winter Camp will be at the Lupine Child Care site from 12/29/14 – 12/31/14 (3days). Families can sign up until December 4, 2014 at one of the child care sites or Community/Swim Center.

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.*

PANCAKE BREAKFAST WITH SANTA AT THE HERCULES SENIOR CENTER

Saturday, Dec. 6, 2014

Breakfast 8:30a - 11:30a, children games until 1:00p

Cooking by Chef: Chief Goswick & Paul Cardaropoli

Christmas Music by: Alex & Tradewinds

Tickets: Adults \$10

Seniors (55+) \$7

Children (under 12) \$5

Includes - Family photos with Mr. & Mrs. Claus and Girl Scouts - Arts & Craft and Face paint

For tickets please call: 510.799.8219

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

Holiday Tree Lighting

Date: 12/14/2014 5:00 PM - 7:00 PM

Location: Hercules Community Center, 2001 Refugio Valley Road

Hot Roasted Garlic Crab Feed:

Doors open at 5:00 p.m. for auction review and bidding. Auction will close at 6:30p.m. Dinner will begin being served at 6:30p.m. and includes bread, salad, pasta, and hot roasted garlic crab. Drinks will be available for purchase at the bar. Tickets will not be sold at the door so please purchase in advance. Join us for an evening of great company, good music, and delicious food!

Date: 01/24/15

Time: 5:00 p.m.- 10:00 p.m.

Location: Hercules Community Center, 2001 Refugio Valley Road

Fees: 3-5 years \$25.00, Adults \$45, Party of 6 \$240.00 (additional tickets \$40.00)

Winter Wonderland Workshop

Bring your family down to the Hercules Teen Center to meet Santa and participate in all of the holiday festivities! Families and children of all ages are welcome. Activities will include: arts and crafts, face painting, making your own ornament and so much more! Sing and dance to your favorite songs with music by Newton - Music, Lighting and Sound!

Date: 12/13/2014 10:00 AM - 1:00 PM

Cost: Pre-register: \$5 per child - Day of Event: \$7 per child

Location: Hercules Teen Center, 2007 Refugio Valley Rd. Hercules, California 94547

POLICE DEPARTMENT

Patrol Highlights

Possession of Loaded & Concealed Firearm; Possession of a Controlled Substance: On November 17, 2014, at 1:22 p.m., officers responded to a business in the 1550 block of Sycamore for a report of subjects acting suspiciously inside the store. While contacting a 31 year old male, from Rodeo, an officer saw a firearm inside the subject's backpack. The subject was arrested for Possession of a Loaded, and Concealed Firearm. A search of the subject, and his belongings was done subsequent to the arrest. The officer found pill containers, containing controlled substances, in the backpack. The subject was transported to County Jail.

Possession of Stolen Property, Probation Violation, and Possession of Drug Paraphernalia:

On November 19, 2014 at 10:09 p.m. Hercules officers were dispatched to a report of two suspicious subjects in the area of S. Front St. The reporting party said there was a Caucasian adult female, wearing a tan jacket, pushing a bicycle; and a Caucasian adult male, wearing a black hooded sweatshirt, carrying a bicycle; in her neighborhood. The subjects were last seen traveling east on Clark St. toward S. Front St. During an area check a 21 year old female, Rodeo resident, was located as she pushed a bicycle in the alley of the 200 block of Serra Lane. About a minute later a 21 year old adult male, of Rodeo, walked into the alley from De Anza Lane. A records check determined male was on searchable probation and had two warrants for his arrest. The male was arrested for the warrants. There was a black backpack bungeed to, the rear rack, the bicycle the female was pushing. The female claimed the bicycle was hers'. The male stated the backpack belonged to both of them. A search of the backpack revealed property belonging to a Pinole resident. Upon hearing the name, as it was radioed to Dispatch, a Pinole PD Officer replied the owner of the property had been the victim of a theft case he took earlier in the evening. The victim responded to HPD and positively identified the backpack, and most of the contents, as his. The male suspect was charged with Possession of Stolen Property, and Violation of Probation. The female was charged with Possession of Property and Possession of Narcotic Paraphernalia. The suspects were transported the Martinez Detention Facility.

Outside Assist to C.H.P.: On November 22, 2014 at 9:27 p.m. an officer found an unoccupied suspicious vehicle parked off the roadway facing W/B on Carbon Way (CHP jurisdiction for traffic collisions). The vehicle, a Silver '01 Volvo S80 was found to be registered to a Concord

address. The vehicles windows were down, and the engine was still warm to the touch. Officers heard movement, coming from the grassy area, west of the vehicle. The movement sounded like a person had ran into, or jumped over, a chain link fence. CHP responded, and had their Helicopter respond to check the area. Dispatch had Concord P.D. drive by the home of the registered owner, to check the status of the vehicle. Concord P.D. was told the registered owner was supposed to be at work in S.F. While Officers were waiting on the helicopter, dispatch advised an adult male was trying to flag down passing motorists, on the W/B SR-4 off-ramp to Willow Ave. Officers arrived in the area and found the registered owner on the off-ramp. The adult male was shirtless, muddy, wet, had cuts, and torn clothing. The male showed obvious signs of intoxication. CHP arrived and took the subject into custody.

Have a Safe and Happy Thanksgiving!

Thanksgiving is a holiday that brings friends and family together to share a good meal, conversation and laughter. But Thanksgiving also comes with several health hazards, including an increased chance of fires, food poisoning and choking.

1. Fire

The U.S. Fire Administration reports that on Thanksgiving Day, the average number of cooking fires doubles. In addition to installing a fire detector in the kitchen, don't leave the kitchen while frying and grilling. Use a timer and do kitchen checks when simmering, baking, broiling and roasting. If you are deep-frying a turkey, keep the fryer outside, away from walls, fences and other structures. Also keep the fryer away from moisture to avoid burns from steam and spattering oil.

Keep pot holders and food wrappers 3 feet away from the stove or other hot surfaces. Kids should stay 3 feet away, too. Make sure the handles of pots and pans are facing inward. Avoid loose clothes, especially those with long sleeves, while cooking. Make sure all candles are put out after the guests leave.

2. Turkey

Eating undercooked turkey is another Thanksgiving health problem. If a turkey is thawed at a temperature above 40 degrees Fahrenheit, salmonella or other bacteria that cause food poisoning can grow. Safely cooking a turkey starts with correct defrosting. There are three methods for safe defrosting. The turkey can be thawed in the refrigerator -- one day for every 5 pounds of the bird. The turkey can be submerged in water if it is in leak-proof packaging -- 30 minutes for every pound. The water should be changed every half hour. It's also safe to defrost a turkey in a microwave. Remove any packaging and follow the manufacturer's instructions.

Cook the turkey immediately after thawing. Don't slow cook or partially cook the turkey, and check the temperature with a meat thermometer to determine if it's done. Even if the turkey came with a pop-up thermometer, it's necessary to check the innermost part of the thigh and wing, and the thickest part of the breast. The turkey and stuffing need to be at least 165 degrees Fahrenheit.

3. Choking

The most common cause of choking is talking while eating. If a person is unable to cough, breathe or speak, the first thing to do is call 911. Next, the Red Cross recommends a technique called FIVE-and-FIVE for choking victims. The first step is giving the choking victim five sharp blows on the back, using the heel of the hand. If the obstruction is not dislodged by this move, the next step is to give the victim five quick, upward abdominal thrusts. Some people run from the table when they start choking. It's important to stay with other people so they can give assistance. If the victim is alone, he can give himself the five abdominal thrusts using his hand or by pressing his abdomen firmly against the back of a chair.

4. Leftovers

Eating Thanksgiving leftovers that have been improperly stored can lead to food poisoning. Leftovers need to be put away within two hours after serving the food -- this includes pumpkin pie. They go in the refrigerator if they are going to be eaten within three days; otherwise, they go in the freezer. Food should be stored in shallow containers. Meat should be removed from the bone before being put away. Reheated leftovers should be cooked to 165 degrees Fahrenheit. Gravy should be brought to a vigorous boil.

5. Pets

Thanksgiving brings health hazards to dogs and other pets as well as humans. Don't give turkey bones to pets. Turkey bones and other bird bones are hollow, which makes them likely to splinter. This can cause tears in an animal's esophagus, stomach or intestines. Be careful about leaving chocolate candies out (or kids dropping candy on the floor). Chocolate can cause illness and even death when dogs ingest it. In addition, dogs shouldn't be fed grapes, raisins, onions, alcohol or anything with caffeine. It's also important to keep the string used to tie the turkey and other food wrappings out of reach of pets.

Dogs tend to be excited when there are a lot of people in the house. When they are excited they often eat too quickly and this can lead to bloating – a very dangerous condition. Feed your dog before the guests arrive and don't let them be too active before or after eating.

HERCULES POLICE BI-WEEKLY STATS

(11-13-14 TO 11-24-14)

CALLS FOR SERVICE	600
REPORTS	66
TRAFFIC CITES	42
PARKING CITES	32
ADULT ARRESTS	17
JUVENILE ARRESTS	0
ARSONS	0

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE REPORTS	0
HATE CRIMES	0
TOWED VEHICLES	19
PART 1 TOTAL	6

PART 1 CRIMES BROKEN DOWN	----
HOMICIDE	0
RAPE	0
ROBBERY	0
ASSAULT	0
BURGLARY	0
LARCENY	4
MOTOR VEHICLE THEFT	2

HERCULES LIBRARY

Saturday, December 06, 2:00 pm, Hercules Library, HOLIDAY FIXIT CLINIC
 In the spirit of the holidays, The Fixit Clinic Elves will be on hand to spread holiday cheer helping you fix that special item for a loved one (that includes you.) So bring your broken, non-functioning things -- electronics, appliances, computers, toys, etc.-- for assessment, disassembly, and possible repair. We'll provide workspace, specialty tools, and guidance to help you disassemble and troubleshoot your item. Whether we fix it or not, you'll learn more about how it was manufactured and how it worked. This is a family-friendly event: children are heartily invited! 109 Civic Drive, (510)245-2420.

Tuesday, December 09, 7:00 pm Hercules Library, SINCERITY GIRLS ENSEMBLE
 Enjoy an enchanting evening of contemporary and classic holiday a Capella music. For all ages, everyone is welcome. For more information, check our website or call the Library, 109 Civic Drive, (510)245-2420.

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.*

Wild about Writing Class – Every Saturday, 3:30 p.m. at Hercules Library

City Council Meeting: San Francisco Giants Announcements – Tuesday, November 25, 2014, 7:00 p.m. at City Hall – Council Chambers

City Offices (except Senior Center) CLOSED – In observance of Thanksgiving Holiday – Wednesday, November 26 – Friday 28, 2014

Planning Commission Meeting – Monday, December 1, 2014, 7:00 p.m. at City Hall – Council

Chambers **CANCELLED**

Community Produce Program – Tuesday, December 2, 2014, 11:00 a.m. at Hercules Senior Center

Community and Library Services Commission Meeting – Monday, December 8, 2014, 6:30 p.m. at City Hall – Council Chambers

City Council Meeting – Tuesday, December 9, 2014, 7:00 p.m. at City Hall – Council Chambers

Winter Wonderland Workshop – Saturday, December 13th at 10:00 a.m. at Hercules Teen Center. Bring your family down to the Hercules Teen Center to meet Santa and participate in all of the holiday festivities! Families and children of all ages are welcome. Activities will include: arts and crafts, face painting, making your own ornament and so much more! Sing and dance to your favorite songs with music by Newton - Music, Lighting and Sound!

Holiday Tree Lighting - Sunday, December 14, 2014 5:00 PM - 7:00 PM
Location: Hercules Community Center, 2001 Refugio Valley Road