



MEMORANDUM

TO: Mayor and City Council

FROM: June W. Catalano, City Manager

DATE: May 5, 2011

SUBJECT: **WEEKLY UPDATES**

GENERAL UPDATE

Career Day Held at College Park High School – The Pleasant Hill Education/Schools Advisory Commission hosted a “Cutting Edge Careers” evening on Thursday, April 21st at College Park High School, which was attended by more than 130 students and parents. A 12-member panel of speakers entertained and informed the audience with various anecdotes on how they got to be where they are today and how students could do likewise.

The event was interactive with a lively Q & A session between the audience and panelists, moderated by John Sasaki, Education Commissioner and Channel 2 News reporter. The panel included two attorneys, a doctor, two salespeople, a radio producer, a firefighter, a police officer, a librarian, an animator/programmer, and two small business owners. Companies and organizations represented included Microsoft, Pixar, KTVU Channel 2, Alice Radio, Marin Legal Aid, Bay Area Council, Contra Costa Fire, Pleasant Hill Police Department, Pleasant Hill Library and Kaiser Permanente. The feedback from parents and students in attendance was very positive, and the Commission is hoping to make this an annual event.

PUBLIC WORKS AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Building Division

- Grayson Plaza (670 Gregory Lane #G) – A permit was issued for tenant improvements for a future business. The outside landscaping at the complex is undergoing more review before permits can be issued.
- Electric Power (Pleasant Hill Road) – Building staff have been working with PG&E, Code Enforcement and Police Department staff on a situation in an apartment complex where tenants were stealing electric power from PG&E.

Engineering Division

- City Streetlight Outage – Over the weekend, a section of streetlight electrical wiring shorted out and caught fire near the intersection of Contra Costa Boulevard and Boyd Road, resulting in the loss of power to four City-maintained ornamental streetlights. The County Fire Department responded to put out the small fire, and the damaged wires have been removed. City staff is working with the County signal crew to assess the damage and make the necessary repairs in the next few weeks. The traffic signal operation at the Contra Costa Boulevard/Boyd Road intersection is unaffected by the incident.
- Golf Club Road Bridge Replacement Project – The City’s consultant, RBF Consulting, started conducting traffic counts on Thursday, May 5th in the vicinity of Golf Club Road between Old Quarry Road and Contra Costa Boulevard. New traffic counts are needed to address the two-phase construction and amended environmental study for the project. Counts are being conducted while school is still in session. The counts will take place at the following five locations:
 - Contra Costa Boulevard/Golf Club Road
 - Contra Costa Boulevard/Chilpancingo Parkway
 - Chilpancingo Parkway/Old Quarry Road
 - Golf Club Road/Old Quarry Road
 - Old Quarry Road/Camelback Road
- Encroachment Permits Underway

Private

Citywide Concrete Co. – Repair sidewalk at 100 Boyd Road

Owner – Place trash container in the City right-of-way at 270 Gloria Drive

Utilities

AT&T – Place new fiber cable at 700 Ellinwood Drive

AT&T – Maintenance on splice box on Oak Park Boulevard at Monte Cresta Drive

PG&E – Replace overhead switch on Geary Road across from Daphne Court

Maintenance Division

- Tree Removal – The tree removal on the Contra Costa Boulevard roadside area (northwest side of Doray Drive) has been completed. The trees were chipped on site and spread along the roadside to provide a weed control barrier.

- Tree Removal –The Pine trees in the median strip on Contra Costa Boulevard, north of Golf Club Road, were raised for both sight and vehicle clearance.
- Weed Abatement – Staff has started weed abatement for fire breaks in specific areas which are required by the Contra Costa Consolidated Fire District. The plan is to get a head start before the fire season. This also includes roadside spraying, which is underway.

Planning Division

- **Planning Commission**

No meeting scheduled.

- **Zoning Administrator**

No meeting scheduled.

- **Architectural Review Commission**

Roche New Single Family Home (1671 Stanmore Drive) – The Commission conducted a hearing to consider approval of a new 4,036-square-foot single-family one-story residence with 980 square feet of covered porch area; a 759-square-foot detached garage; and a 447-square-foot exercise studio with a covered porch area of 35 square feet. No one from the public spoke on this item.

Action: Approved with conditions.

Appeal Period: Appeal period ends on Monday, May 16, 2011 at 5:00 pm

- **Code Compliance**

Selected highlights of weekly activity:

Dirt Contamination – Staff is currently working with County HazMat to address large piles of dirt reportedly dumped on private property on Oak Park Boulevard. The owner of the property states that the source of the dirt is unknown. HazMat has taken samples to ascertain if there are any contaminants in the dirt or any other concerns.

Vehicle Abatement – A partially-dismantled vehicle on Rainbow Lane has been removed as requested. This site has been the subject of prior abatement actions.

Permit Violations – Staff investigated a complaint regarding a business being operated from a home on Harvard. In addition, staff discovered that a large canopy

overhang had been installed without permits and the garage was being converted into a recreation room. A Building Inspector participated in the investigation and determined that illegal electrical wiring was also installed in the garage, causing a potential fire hazard. The home was tenant occupied, and the owner has been contacted and is now working with staff to resolve the violations.

A condominium unit on Pleasant Hill Road was observed to have an unapproved electrical connection to bypass the electric meter. Staff is following up with the owner and PG&E to ensure that this violation will be corrected.

Number of Tasks Completed This Week – 85 (including 26 investigations, 6 sector patrols, 10 referrals to assist other agencies/divisions and various miscellaneous activities such as phone calls, emails, internal requests for service and attendance at training sessions).

- **Miscellaneous**

Over-the-Counter Permit Activity – For the month of April, Planning staff reviewed the following applications: 20 Zoning Permits (5 commercial plan checks, 13 residential plan checks, and 2 new businesses), 9 Home Occupation Permits and 3 Temporary Sign Permits.