

District News

Fall/Winter 2021

Newsletter of
Pebble Beach
Community
Services District



Fire protection and
emergency medical services

Wastewater collection,
treatment, and recycling

Recycled water storage
and distribution

Garbage collection,
disposal, and recycling

Supplemental law
enforcement



DELICATE OPERATION

Contractors use a crane to maneuver a massive concrete vault into position for PBCSD's Undergrounding Overhead Utilities project. The vault is one of many that will house PG&E, Comcast, and AT&T equipment below ground to reduce power outages and increase fire safety.

Faster response in the forest

Good news for Pebble Beach residents and visitors: the excellent response time for medical, fire, ocean rescue, and all emergencies in the forest is now even faster,

thanks to Pebble Beach Community Service District's (PBCSD's) new automatic vehicle location system (AVL). Now when a call comes into dispatch, the AVL automatically locates the closest emergency response vehicles and uses real-time traffic conditions to determine which can reach the scene fastest.

The system is shared throughout the CAL FIRE San Benito-Monterey unit so the closest responders can be dispatched regardless of responsibility area. The AVL also allows for continual incident updates and communication between all responders, which keeps firefighters safer. PBCSD was the lead district spearheading the effort to activate the AVL locally. Since the system taps into pre-existing CAL FIRE infrastructure, the cost of starting the program was significantly reduced. *(Cont. on page 2)*



WHEN SECONDS COUNT
PBCSD responders use the jaws of life to rescue an accident victim near Monastery Beach in April (the victim fully recovered).

Utilities undergrounding update

Progress continues on schedule with PBCSD's Phase Three Undergrounding Overhead Utilities program. Currently, we are about 60 percent done installing the substructure of phase three, a 2.75 mile section which will join the already completed phase one and two, creating approximately six miles of continuous underground utility lines. The substructure includes the conduit and underground vaults that will house the PG&E, Comcast, and AT&T equipment.

Construction is complete along Forest Lake Road from Hawkins Way south to the Peter Hay Golf Course, and we are now working on remaining sections near the Pebble Beach Golf Academy and the equestrian center. Utilities will begin installing equipment in late winter/early spring, with power pole removal and pavement restoration completed around the end of fall 2022.

In total, the long-term, multi-phase project will underground approximately 12 miles of primary lines to reduce forest-wide power outages during storms, and the risk of fire from falling power lines. This highly complex, award-winning project continues to serve as a model for other municipalities who want to ensure reliability of utilities, and enhance fire safety.

Top plant pick:

TRY THIS FIRESAFE, DEER-RESISTANT NATIVE PLANT IN YOUR YARD!



Fuchsias are a feast for the eyes, and for nectar-eating birds. Photo: Stan Sheba

The spectacular show of tube-shaped flowers that appear during the rainy season on our native Fuchsia flower Gooseberry (*Ribes speciosum*) is a magnet for hummingbirds and pollinators. As the soil dries, the bright green leaves turn darker and songbirds swoop in to eat the red-orange berries.

This shade-loving gooseberry can grow quickly, reaching 6-10 feet high and 3-8 feet across. Its very thorny branches protect nesting birds from cats and other predators. Plant it away from walkways under a tree where you can enjoy the flowers, birds, and butterflies. This gooseberry goes deciduous in summer, so plant some evergreens nearby. Once established, the plant needs no supplemental watering.



**Pebble Beach
Community
Services District**

PBCSD is a multi-purpose local government voted into existence by Del Monte Forest residents on July 1, 1982.

PBCSD administrative office
(831) 373-1274
3101 Forest Lake Road,
Pebble Beach, CA 93953
PBCSD.org
tinyurl.com/PBCSD-Facebook
tinyurl.com/PBCSD-Twitter

Garbage collection and recycling
GreenWaste Recovery: 920-6707

Free 24-hour sewer service: 373-1274
If water is overflowing into your home it is an emergency. Call us immediately, day or night.

Fire and medical emergencies
call 911

PBCSD Board of Directors

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Fuel reduction curbs fire

A fire in the forest was unable to spread, thanks to PBCSD's ongoing fuel reduction program. The incident occurred on October 15 when a tall delivery truck snagged a low-hanging

telecommunications line and pulled down a power pole across from the Pebble Beach Corporation Yard. Nearby District firefighters arrived within three minutes, but they could not get near the fire for almost 30 minutes because power lines were down. Battalion Chief Josh Silveira was the first on scene.

"There were flames on the ground, but I was relieved to see that our previous fuel reduction would prevent the fire from taking off," said Chief Silveira. "We had cleared the area with a masticator, and that made all the difference."

The fire location was part of a fuel reduction project completed in June which thinned flammable vegetation along all main evacuation and access routes. As a result, the fire was slow-moving and confined to the ground, where it burned an approximate 30-square-foot area before being extinguished.

"There was a significant wind that day, and we could have lost three or four acres if the area hadn't been cleared," said Chief Silveira. "Fuel reduction is an ongoing effort. We will continue to treat new areas, and maintain places that we have already treated."



Previous fuel reduction along Sunridge Road prevented this fire in October from spreading.



ZOMBIES IN THE FOREST!
An "undead" prom queen and skeleton were two of hundreds of costumed runners who participated in PBCSD's annual Zombie Race and Emergency Preparedness Fair held on October 30. Photo by Chris Johnson

Faster response *(Cont. from page 1)*

"Our 9-month test trial showed that response times were about 30 seconds faster with the AVL system, said Battalion Chief Josh Silveira. "During a life or death emergency, 30 seconds is the world. It can mean the difference between a meaningful recovery and no recovery at all."

Saving more lives

The value of the system was soon proven when a golfer experienced a heart attack on the Pebble Beach Golf Links. Our main Fire Station 22 at Lopez and Forest Roads would usually respond, but the AVL system instantly determined that the Highway One Gate fire station would arrive one minute sooner because Station 22 engines were at an off-site training.

District firefighter paramedics arrived on scene in less than six minutes. The patient had no pulse and was defibrillated and medicated to restart and stabilize his heartbeat. Thanks to the quick response and early CPR by a Pebble Beach security officer, the patient had a full recovery. In fact, since we began using the AVL system on January 1, District responders have treated six heart attack victims, all of whom had meaningful recoveries with little to no deficits.

"We are grateful to the District board of directors for supporting this new technology," said Chief Silveira. "It allows us to save more lives, and deliver the best possible outcomes to the community we serve."

New truck safeguards community

PBCSD has an extremely low incidence of sanitary sewer overflows, thanks to continual cleaning and diligent maintenance of mainlines and infrastructure. Nevertheless, as a coastal community it's critical that we have the necessary emergency response equipment to deal with sewer spills quickly and efficiently should they occur.

The District recently purchased a new vacuum truck to safeguard people, property, wildlife, and the environment, including Carmel Bay, a designated Area of Special Biological Significance. The new truck replaces our previous 20-year-old vehicle, and has a cleaner burning motor that meets current pollution control regulations. Its large storage tank and powerful suction enables our crew to safely pump water and debris out of sewer lines, sumps, and wet wells, as well as from roadways in the event of a spill. The vacuum truck can act as a temporary pump station bypass if a lift station loses power, and it serves as a backup to our primary maintenance truck so that work can continue unabated to prevent spills from happening.

Our dedicated five-man crew responds to emergencies 24 hours a day, 365 days a year to protect our community. If you have a sewer backup or see water coming from a manhole, please call us immediately, day or night, at 373-1274.



READY FOR EMERGENCIES
The PBCSD maintenance staff is ready to respond to sewer emergencies seven days a week, 24 hours a day. The District's new vacuum truck allows them to quickly clean up sewer spills to protect human health and the environment. Shown are (clockwise from top left) Nic Faro, Jesse Huddleson, Kelvin Ellison, Supervisor Kregg Bush, and Ryan Casey.



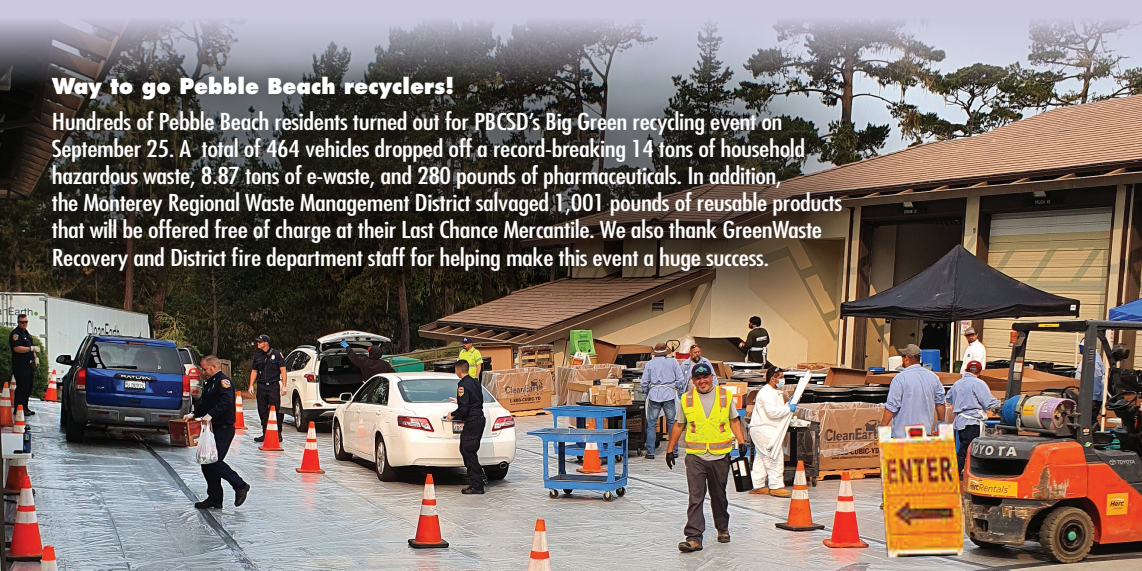
Please—don't flush wipes!

- Despite package labeling, wipes are not flushable/biodegradable
- Wipes, paper towels, and rags cause backups and damage the sewer system—always put them in the trash
- Flush only human waste and toilet paper

Wipes are causing severe problems for sewer systems worldwide, as well as a dramatic increase of microplastic pollution in oceans and waterways. As an alternative to wipes, consider purchasing an inexpensive bidet that attaches beneath your existing toilet seat to provide superior, hands-free cleansing. There are also luxury bidet toilet seats with heat, spray modes, and air drying. Either option will save trees, reduce your carbon footprint, and help prevent sewage spills and backups.

Way to go Pebble Beach recyclers!

Hundreds of Pebble Beach residents turned out for PBCSD's Big Green recycling event on September 25. A total of 464 vehicles dropped off a record-breaking 14 tons of household hazardous waste, 8.87 tons of e-waste, and 280 pounds of pharmaceuticals. In addition, the Monterey Regional Waste Management District salvaged 1,001 pounds of reusable products that will be offered free of charge at their Last Chance Mercantile. We also thank GreenWaste Recovery and District fire department staff for helping make this event a huge success.



New hires and newly retireds

PBCSD salutes two maintenance department retirees: Supervisor Dave Drewien,

who gave our community 39 years of dedicated service, and Marty Manjares, a crew member who provided stellar service for 25 years. We also welcome Nic Faro (left) and Ryan Casey to our five-man team. Nic has 25 years of technical experience, most recently as a field mechanic at Monterey One Water. He is helping us maintain our reclaimed water distribution system, and keep our sewer system equipment running smoothly.

Ryan's work experience includes underground construction and pipeline installation, as well as being a security supervisor at CHOMP. Monitoring pump stations, clearing blockages, and ongoing cleaning of our 82 miles of mainline are just a few of his duties.

"I love working outside and learning new skills," said Ryan. "Everyone has a real sense of teamwork here. Some of the jobs can be dangerous, but we all have each others' backs." Like everyone on the crew, Nic and Ryan take turns being on call for after-hours emergencies.

"It's a real pleasure to help the residents here," said Nic. "Whether we're working on the street or responding to an emergency call, everyone is very interested, thoughtful, and appreciative of what we do."



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Pebble Beach Community Services District
3101 Forest Lake Road
Pebble Beach, CA 93953

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RAIN READY District fire department personnel (from left) Tony Fowler, Garrett Green, and Dani Walden fill sand bags to aid Pebble Beach residents who have flood-prone property. See #6 below for details.

Winter safety: six reminders

1. During severe weather, fires, utility outages, or evacuation notices we will contact affected neighborhoods through our CodeRED emergency message system. If you have limited mobility or do not drive, make sure you are on our Emergency Assistance List so we can provide help if needed. To sign up or update your contacts, please visit PBCSD.org.
2. Prepare for power outages before storms hit. Make sure your phones, laptops, and power banks are fully charged, and that flashlights and lanterns have batteries. Know how to manually operate your electric gate or garage door opener. If you depend on an electrical medical device or refrigerated medication, you may need a generator. Run generators outside only and read all safety guidelines first. Contact the District fire marshal at 375-9644 for details on safe installation.
3. Storms and high winds are especially dangerous in the forest due to falling trees and power lines. Follow weather forecasts and run errands before storms hit.
4. Take extra care on our curvy, unlit forest roads during wet weather. Now is the time to replace worn windshield wipers, and check tire wear and inflation. Increase your distance behind other vehicles, and allow more time for travel. Drive slower so you can stop in time should a deer or car appear in your path. If you must pull off the road, use your emergency flashers.
5. Refresh your disaster preparedness kit so you can be self-sufficient for three days without water or power. Include one gallon of water minimum per day for each person, non-perishable food, battery operated radio, pet supplies, and other essentials. Visit ready.gov for checklists.
6. The District's self-serve sand bag station is open 24 hours a day behind the fire station at Forest Lake and Lopez Roads (look for the red tarp). Filled sand bags are available on a first come, first served basis. If you need help filling or loading bags, or want advice about placement on flood-prone properties, ring the bell at the front door or call the number below.



Headlights are required by law when it's raining, whether day or night. Switch to high beams whenever possible so you can see further down the road.

We're here for you—if you have questions please call the fire station at 375-4204.

Batteries cause fires at our local recycling center



DID YOU KNOW: discarded batteries have caused 33 fires so far this year at the Monterey Regional Waste Management District (MRWMD), endangering workers and our community's recycling center. Particularly dangerous are so-called "zombie batteries"—dead lithium ion batteries—which can combust and explode when damaged, igniting the cardboard and plastic that travels through the recycling plant on conveyer belts.

Lithium ion batteries power smart phones and laptops, as well as earbuds, toothbrushes, stick vacuums, power tools, toys, vape pens, e-cigarettes, and many other chargeable devices that people unknowingly put in the trash and recycling bin. These dead electronics are hazardous waste and must be delivered to MRWMD for disposal; please call 264-6386 for drop-off hours.

GreenWaste picks up household batteries on your regular collection day. Seal them in a clear plastic bag and place on top of your blue recycling cart. Tape the tops of lithium ion, 9-volt, and 6-volt batteries. Call GreenWaste at 920-6707 for more information.



GreenWaste Holiday Garbage Schedule

Regular Pickup	Holiday Pickup
Thurs., Nov. 25	Fri., Nov. 26
Fri., Nov. 26	Sat., Nov. 27
Sat., Dec. 25: no change	
Sat., Jan. 1: no change	

Two ways to recycle your holiday tree



Note: remove the tree stand and all ornaments, lights, tinsel and decorations. Flocked trees are not accepted.

1. **Curbside pick up January 3 to 21 on your regular collection day (no need to schedule).** Please cut tree into 6-foot lengths or shorter and place curbside. After January 21 you can still dispose of small trees in your yard waste cart. *For more information, please call GreenWaste Recovery at 920-6707.*

2. **Drop-off through January 31** Bring any size tree, no cutting required, to the Pebble Beach Company Corporation Yard located at Lopez and Sunridge Roads.