

District News

fall/winter 2020

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



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Covering all the bases to reduce fire risk

When it comes to fire prevention and preparedness, the Pebble Beach Community Services District has all the bases covered. In fact, PBCSD serves as a model for how communities should defend against fire, especially those that interface with wildlands.

"The District's Fire Defense Plan uses a multifaceted strategy to provide an extremely high level of protection," said PBCSD Fire Prevention Chief Mark Mondragon. "In addition to our Class One fire department, it includes fuel reduction in the forest, fire safety codes for buildings, maintenance of evacuation routes, and many other safeguards that work together to exponentially reduce risk."

Reducing fire risk at the source

As climate change increases the occurrence of wildfires, the District has stepped up fuel reduction to reduce risk and intensity of potential fires. Over the last two years we've spent approximately \$1million treating over 300 acres to ensure the safety of Pebble Beach residents and their homes. This includes fuel reduction at all Pebble Beach gates, and along all main evacuation/access routes. *(Cont. on page 2)*

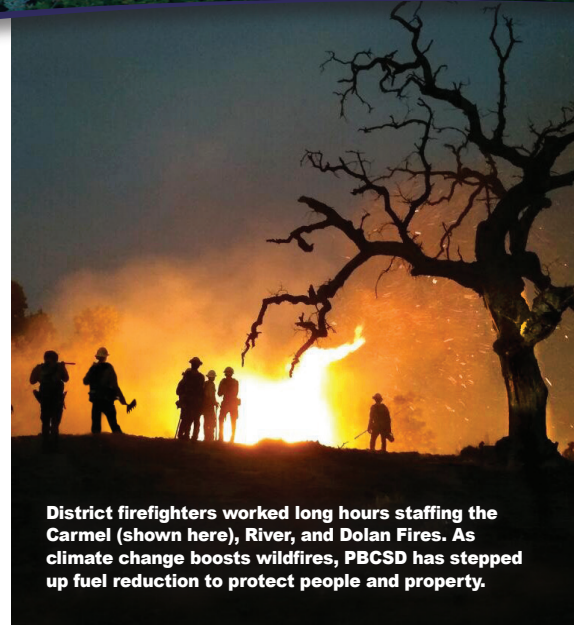


CAWD Laboratory Supervisor Ray DeOcampo prepares samples for coronavirus screening. Wastewater testing can predict COVID-19 spikes by monitoring virus concentrations over time.

Testing wastewater for coronavirus

As part of our shared mission to safeguard the community, our partners at the Carmel Area Wastewater District (CAWD) have been testing wastewater for the SARS-CoV-2 virus that causes COVID-19. They have been collecting a 24-hour composite sample every week since July 5. Samples are sent to Biotic Analytics, a Massachusetts company which is analyzing samples from all over the country. Since people harbor the virus before symptoms appear, wastewater testing is a cost-effective, non-invasive way to predict outbreaks before they happen.

CAWD samples show higher viral concentrations when there is an influx of visitors to the area. After the July 4 holiday weekend, 90,000 coronavirus particles were detected per liter of sewage, which fell to 17,000 particles one week later. There was a similar spike after Labor Day. As with all pathogens *(Cont. on page 2)*



District firefighters worked long hours staffing the Carmel (shown here), River, and Dolan Fires. As climate change boosts wildfires, PBCSD has stepped up fuel reduction to protect people and property.



Hometown pride

DISTRICT RECEIVES AWARD FOR FINANCIAL REPORTING

For the second year in a row, PBCSD has received a Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting—the highest form of recognition that can be achieved for government accounting! The award recognizes government entities which demonstrate the highest spirit of full disclosure and transparency. The award was presented by the Government Finance Officers Association (GFOA), which has more than 20,000 members in North America. The GFOA strives to advance excellence in public finance by providing best practice guidance, publications, and training.



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

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Fire risk *(Cont. from page 1)*

CAL FIRE crews and contractors remove dry vegetation and fallen Monterey pines, and selectively thin overgrown, low habitat value areas to encourage healthy new growth. In addition, each year hundreds of goats are brought in to munch dry vegetation in inaccessible areas. Work is prioritized using sophisticated fuel modeling applications, in cooperation with our partners: CAL FIRE, Del Monte Forest Conservancy, Pebble Beach Company, and the foresters and naturalists on the Open Space Advisory Committee.



Fuel reduction along Hwy 68 (shown here) and all evacuation routes ensures that fires would be low-intensity and slow-moving near the roadways.

Fire prevention for home and property

Building codes and defensible space work hand in hand with fuel reduction to increase the survivability of homes. Fire-resistant roofing materials, non-flammable siding, closed eaves, double-pane windows, and other “hardening” techniques can save a home and even an entire neighborhood when burning embers are carried by the wind. In addition, each year District inspectors check every property in the forest to ensure that trees and landscaping are maintained to create a protective buffer against wildfire.

“The District board has worked wholeheartedly with CAL FIRE to establish a truly comprehensive Fire Defense Plan,” said Mondragon. “We also commend the homeowners of Pebble Beach for their vigilance in keeping properties lean and green. Together, we can keep our community safe.”



The microfiltration/reverse osmosis system at the CAWD plant transforms treated wastewater into high quality recycled water for golf course irrigation.

Coronavirus testing *(Cont. from page 1)*

that enter the plant, the coronavirus is completely eliminated during treatment.

“We will continue to test as long as it is of benefit to the public,” said CAWD General Manager Barbara Buikema. “The message is clear that we all need to stay vigilant and continue to socially distance, wear masks, and wash our hands to protect ourselves, our families, and the community.”

Partnering to save water

PBCSD has had an ongoing partnership with CAWD to provide wastewater treatment services since the 1960s. In our contractual agreement,

PBCSD owns one-third of plant capacity rights in exchange for paying one-third of capital improvements, as well as operating costs based on wastewater flow.

Since 1994, Pebble Beach golf courses have been irrigated with recycled water thanks to a public-private partnership between PBCSD, CAWD, Pebble Beach Company, and the Monterey Peninsula Water Management District. Recycled wastewater from CAWD is pumped to Forest Lake Reservoir where it provides 100% irrigation for all Pebble Beach golf courses, as well as community open space. This saves drawdown on the Carmel River and protects the lagoon and Carmel Bay, a Designated Area of Special Biological Significance.

We've got your back

Maintenance crew is here for you!

Chances are you've seen some of the District's five-man maintenance crew out and about, making sure that our wastewater collection system is operating efficiently and cost-effectively. They systematically clean all 82 miles of sewer mainline in Pebble Beach each year to prevent spills and protect human health and the environment. They are on the scene at the first sign of trouble, clearing blockages and resolving any issues with our eight pump stations—but that's not all they do.

On any given day they might launch a boat into Forest Lake Reservoir to fix a mechanical problem, work with a local restaurant to prevent grease from entering the system, or download data from our roadside radar speed detectors. Using remote control cameras, they collect video imagery of the collection system so we can prioritize maintenance projects in our ongoing Wastewater Capital Replacement Program. They brave winter storms in the dead of night to fix damaged pipelines, and have even rescued pets that have disappeared down the storm drain! Here are just a few services the crew provides to Pebble Beach residents:

Backup? Call our free 24-hour service first! If water in any amount is backing up through your toilet, tub, shower, or floor drain it is an emergency. Do not hesitate to phone the District immediately, day or night, at 373-1274. We are here for you 24 hours a day, seven days a week. We will determine free of charge if the blockage is in the mainline (our responsibility) or lateral line (your responsibility). If you call a plumber first you will be charged regardless.

Call for a free SRV inspection Your sewer relief valve (SRV) is a simple but vital device which prevents sewage backups into your home by diverting wastewater into your yard instead. It looks like a pipe or metal "mushroom" sticking up from the ground between your house and the street. You should check it periodically to make sure it is operational, especially after storms when fallen branches could prevent it from working. Call us for a free inspection; our friendly staff can show you how to easily check it yourself in the future.

Lateral line inspections After you have work done on your lateral line, a District inspector will check it before backfilling to ensure that installation is professional and up to code. Any replacement, repair, or new connection to your lateral line requires a permit. Inspections protect our shared collections system, and give property owners peace of mind that the job is done right! *As public servants, District maintenance staff are happy to answer your sewer-related questions, and they respond to emergencies around the clock. Please don't hesitate to call them at 373-1274!*



AT YOUR SERVICE The District hired two new maintenance crew members last year: Kregg Bush (right) and Jesse Huddleson—we welcome both of these skilled professionals to the PBCSD team! They replaced retired Juan Moreno and Jim McClure, who served Pebble Beach residents for 30 and 19 years, respectively. We salute our retirees for their long-term dedication and wish them well on life's journey!

Be ready for winter storm power outages



Watch for storm alerts so you can prepare and shop before outages occur.

Be sure your phone and tablet are fully charged. Battery operated chargers are handy to restore devices during extended outages. In a pinch, you can charge devices through your car battery. A corded landline will work even if cell towers are down.

Refresh disaster kits to provide for three days without water or power. Be sure you have flashlights, lanterns, extra batteries, and a battery operated radio. Visit ready.gov for checklists.

Turn off appliances, electronics, and lights so that momentary power surges cannot cause damage.

Keep refrigerator and freezer doors closed. Storing frozen bottles of water in your freezer will keep food cold longer. Be prepared to use coolers and ice.

If you can't open and close your garage door manually you may want to leave your vehicle outside. If you have an electric gate, leave it open so emergency responders can enter your property.

If you require refrigerated medication or electrical medical devices you may need a portable generator. Read all safety guidelines before operation.

Tune to 1620 AM to get District updates during power outages.



SALUTING 40 YEARS OF SERVICE

We congratulate **Alberto Arellano** on his retirement! Alberto has been servicing the garbage pickup needs of Pebble Beach for an amazing 40 years. He has made many friends in the community since he started work in 1980.

"At first, our brief chats were about our children and vacations, then they became about our grandchildren—and our aches and pains!" said Alberto. "I have been truly blessed to have a job that gave me the opportunity to meet so many kind people."

We wish Alberto and his wife Elvia a beautiful retirement together!



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Pebble Beach Community Services District
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Pebble Beach, CA 93953

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Cougars have a modest lung capacity and are sprinters; dogs, which are distance runners, are used by biologists to run tired cats up trees where they are harmlessly captured for study then released.

Living with wildlife

Like cats and dogs!

—by Jeffrey B. Froke, Ph.D.

What do the truly wild versions—mountain lions and coyotes—have in common? Certainly, you will not see them romping and tussling on YouTube; in nature they avoid rather than fight one another—and, if to cross paths, can you guess who would win? What they have in common is an appetite for domestic cats and dogs.

Tragic losses can be prevented by keeping house cats inside, or supervised if allowed to exercise outside. When on a walk or run, every dog’s safety and welfare is best assured when kept on leash; at home in a fenced yard and always indoors by night. Fortunately, in Pebble Beach there is plenty of small game—birds, gophers, frogs and lizards (and fawns)—for resident coyotes, and while visiting, any healthy far-wandering cougar will find plentiful deer to sustain its ±100-pound frame.

It’s a cat-eat-dog world

Occasionally, a coyote will appear in the stomach of a vanquished lion, clear evidence (to the lucky biologist) that the coyote had been more foolish than wily, and got caught invading the big cat’s stash of venison. *Safety tip:* If you and your dog run across a worked-over and partially buried deer carcass near a trail, don’t nose around—just keep walkin’, eyes open and looking all around.

Let’s cut to the chase, so to speak—mountain lions live to hunt deer, but they are attracted to other prey—wild and domestic—when these are easy pickings, and that includes unprotected pets. Coyotes, whether as solos or packs, roam Pebble Beach in two modes: (1) food-finding, and (2) mate-finding . . .

Our dogs should not be allowed to engage their cousins in either of these roaming modes, no matter how sweet the moonlight serenade. And when everyone is brought inside for the evening, collect their water and feed bowls, which otherwise attract masked bandits and predators. Boiled-down: **DO** keep “Lord Ruff” on a leash, or in a fenced yard, or indoors; **DON’T** allow “Miss Whiskers” to roam the great outdoors; **DO** bring in everyone’s food and water bowls at night; **DON’T** investigate fresh deer kills; **DO** enjoy life in Pebble Beach and the Del Monte Forest, smartly and safely!!



Be a five-star recycler!

Break down boxes Remove all packaging material from boxes and flatten them before you put them in your cart. If they’re too big for your cart, call GreenWaste for a bulky item pickup.

Keep it clean Spatula clean is good enough for mayo, peanut butter, and tomato sauce containers. Pizza boxes are fine, just remove any stuck-on food.

Don’t overfill your cart The lid should be closed all the way to keep out rain, wind, and wild scavengers—and to avoid extra charges. Automated trucks are not designed to empty overflowing containers, and wet paper and cardboard cannot be recycled.

One at a time Packaging made from multiple materials is not recyclable. Examples of these “horrible hybrids” include: paper shipping envelopes lined with plastic bubble wrap, cardboard packages with plastic labels, food pouches, and foil/plastic blister packs for pills, gum, etc. If possible, separate the materials before recycling, otherwise put it in the trash. Tip: if you can’t rip the packaging, it has a plastic coating.

Keep it loose Don’t package your recycling. The only thing you should bag is shredded paper—seal it in a clear bag, or inside a stapled brown paper bag.



HORRIBLE HYBRIDS
When shopping, avoid packages made from multiple materials—they are not recyclable.

GreenWaste Holiday Garbage Schedule

Regular Pickup	Holiday Pickup
Thurs., Nov. 26	Fri., Nov. 27
Fri., Nov. 27	Sat., Nov. 28
Fri., Dec. 25	Sat., Dec. 26
Fri., Jan. 1	Sat., Jan. 2

Recycle your holiday tree

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



1. Curbside pickup January 2 to 29 on your regular collection day (no need to schedule). Please cut tree into 6-foot lengths or shorter and place curbside. After January 29 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.