

The Brentwood CONNECTION

VOLUME 5 • ISSUE 1

SUMMER • 2011

In this Issue

- › Residential Street Trees
- › Civic Center Update
- › Utility Billing Online
- › New Sign Ordinance
- › City of Brentwood Gives Boost to Local Companies and Business Start-Ups
- › Funding for Bypass
- › Homeownership in Brentwood
- › Recyclables in Disguise
- › Help Prevent Copper Wire Theft
- › Water Conservation
- › Under Construction
- › Graffiti Removal Program
- › Playport to Fun – Your Travel Through Brentwood
- › Downtown Trees are Back!

Residential Street Trees

A city's urban forest provides several benefits for the community such as improved air quality, shade, personal health advantages, energy conservation, aesthetics, reduced temperatures, and increased property value, just to name a few.

The City of Brentwood is responsible for over 23,000 trees located throughout public parks, open space, medians, and parkways.

Additionally, many trees are planted throughout the community in residential areas as a condition of approval for the dwelling unit; these are known as "street trees."

A street tree is the responsibility of the homeowner. The City has implemented a citywide tree pruning/replacement program for City trees, and homeowner responsibilities include maintaining tree health and safety through proper irrigation, tree staking, fertilization, proper pruning practices, and removal or replacement should the tree become a hazard or die. Removing and replacing a street tree if it is dead or hazardous requires prior approval from the City along with a no-fee encroachment permit from the City. This protects underground utilities and ensures that all City regulations are followed.

Street trees in gated communities and/or private streets that come under a homeowners' as-

sociation jurisdiction are not subject to the City's requirement, and would follow HOA requirements instead. Residents are also required to maintain an adequate clearance over sidewalks (8-10') and streets (12-14').



"The City of Brentwood is responsible for over 23,000 trees..."



Members of the City staff are available for consultation support and advice for residents. The City also provides a list of approved replacement trees as referenced in the Urban Forest Guidelines document, which can be downloaded on the City's website.

We will also be updating the inventory list of residential street trees. Parks and Recreation staff will contact a resident if a maintenance issue, a potential hazard, or a missing tree on their property is identified. If the resident does not bring the identified

problem into compliance within 10 days, the matter will be referred to Code Enforcement staff for follow-up. For more information regarding the City of Brentwood trees and landscaping maintenance requirements, go to <http://qcode.us/codes/brentwood/> (Titles 7 and 8).

**For more information:
Roger Stromgren (925) 516-5444**



Civic Center Update

The Civic Center buildings are in the final stages of completion!

Furniture is expected to arrive in City Hall starting August 1 and in the Community Center on September 5. It is anticipated that staff will occupy the City Hall building starting October 15 and the Community Center will be available for public use beginning January 2012. The Parking Structure is essentially complete, with only work on the stairs, elevator, and tower remaining.

The site work continues to develop; sidewalks around the Civic Center and throughout the park as well as the access road around the property are being built now. The construction of the children's water-play feature in the park is underway.



The Grand Opening for the Civic Center is expected to take place in early November. Look for information about this event in the local newspaper closer to that date.

For more information: visit our website at www.ci.brentwood.ca.us/civiccenter

Utility Billing Online

On March 25, 2011, the City of Brentwood introduced Utility Billing Online, which provides Utility Billing customers the option to access their utility accounts via the Internet. Through Utility Billing Online, customers can view account information and pay their utility bill, as well as request additional services.

To date, 15% of all Utility Billing customers have signed up to access their utility account online and in May, 9% of all Utility Billing payments were

made via the online website.

To access Utility Billing Online, visit the City of Brentwood website at www.ci.brentwood.ca.us and click on Utility Billing Online, then follow the instructions. The first time you log in, you'll need your Utility Billing account number and the amount of your last payment in order to establish access.

**For more information:
Utility Billing (925) 516-5415**

New Sign Ordinance

On May 24, after a two-year process that included several public meetings, the City Council adopted a comprehensive revision to the City's sign regulations. The ordinance approving the revision went into effect on June 23. In July, the City published an article in the Brentwood Press and distributed flyers to business owners regarding the new ordinance.

**For more information:
Planning/Economic Development
Division (925) 516-5405**

Funding for Bypass

The California Transportation Commission recently awarded \$25 million in transportation funds to the State Route 4 (SR 4) Bypass. The grant was received through the assistance and coordinated efforts of various organizations and elected officials from the region. Funding will widen the SR 4 Bypass to four lanes from Lone Tree Way to Sand Creek Road and construct an overpass at the Sand Creek Road intersection. The project is expected to begin late this year.

City of Brentwood Gives Boost to Local Companies and Business Start-Ups

The City has added "Tools for Business Success" to the City's website, providing the necessary tools needed to better manage your business. The site includes: an entrepreneurial kit, a business start-up kit, sample business plans, small business certification information, an employer's kit, business funding information, financial calculators, a Business Report Card, a website grader, and much more. To use these tools, visit www.brentwood.toolsforbusiness.info.

For more information: Hazel Wetherford (925) 516-5106



Homeownership in Brentwood



The dream of homeownership is still alive in today's tough economy, but it has become harder to achieve. The City of Brentwood's First Time Homebuyer programs help income-qualifying families achieve their dream of owning their first home in our beautiful community. First Time Homebuyer programs include a purchase program for income-qualifying persons/families, and down payment assistance programs.

For more information:
Sylvia Elias (925) 516-5305

Recyclables in Disguise

Recycling is part of our daily lives, and City residents have proven this with the steady increase in recyclables collected by the City each year. Unfortunately, it's not always easy to know what is or isn't okay to place in the recycling cart and sometimes non-recyclable items end up there. For a user-friendly service guide that includes lists of items categorized by corresponding cart color (blue, green, or brown) visit the City's website or call Solid Waste.



For more information:
Solid Waste (925) 516-6090

Help Prevent Copper Wire Theft

Like many communities throughout the country, the City has been a victim of copper wire theft activities. If you notice any suspicious activity or witness any copper wire theft, please call the Police Department non-emergency number at (925) 778-2441 immediately.

Your support will help maintain public safety and the resources needed to continue providing the best services to our community.

For more information: Public Works/Operations (925) 516-6000

Water Conservation

Do you know that over the past 10 years City residents have reduced their water usage (gallons per capita per day) by 10%? And did you know that the Water Conservation Act of 2009 requires the City to reduce its water usage by an additional 10% by the year 2020? To meet this goal, City staff will continue to educate the public on water conservation through informational school assemblies, high-efficiency toilet rebate offers, distributing low flow fixtures, performing free home water-use surveys, checking for water leaks, and converting parks and landscape irrigation to recycled water. Additional water conservation and rebate information is available on the City's website.



For more information: Public Works/Operations (925) 516-6000

Graffiti Removal Program

The City of Brentwood is dedicated to keeping our community beautiful and is proud to have an aggressive Graffiti Removal Program. Since July 2010, the City's Street Maintenance Division has removed 50,186 square feet of graffiti throughout the city. This includes graffiti on sound walls, tunnels, parks, sidewalks, utility cabinets, and signs. The City's goal is to respond within 24 hours for graffiti abatement, with the exception of holidays and weekends. If you see someone in the process of committing an act of graffiti, please call the Police Department's non-emergency number at (925) 778-2441. To report graffiti, please call Public Works/Operations or submit a service request via the City's Web site.

For more information: Public Works/Operations (925) 516-6000

Under Construction

Capital Improvement Projects:

- 2011 Pavement Management Program – slurry seal and pavement rehabilitation of various streets throughout the City. Construction expected to start in June 2011. Estimated completion: fall 2011.
- Sand Creek Road Widening between Fairview Avenue and Villa Amador Apartments. Construction expected to start this summer. Estimated completion: December 2011.
- Police Department – installation of solar panels. Construction expected to start this summer. Estimated completion: December 2011.

Developer Projects:

- Marsh Creek Road and Vineyards Parkway Roadway. Improvements are currently under construction. Estimated completion: fall 2011.

For more information:
Community Development (925) 516-5405



City of Brentwood
708 Third Street
Brentwood, CA 94513

PRSR STD
U.S. Postage
PAID
Brentwood, CA
Permit # 708

ECRWSS

Postal Customer

Playport to Fun – Your Travel Through Brentwood

The City’s “Playport to Fun” summer program began on June 8. Each week, one of Brentwood’s 58 parks is featured as the “Park of the Week.” On the City’s website, you can download games, activity sheets, picnic ideas, recipes, fun facts, healthy tips, and summer challenges with that week’s theme. The Playport to Fun program will finish off with these remaining events:

Choose your own adventure . . .

- Week of July 31:** Horse Play at Almond Park
- Week of August 7:** Have a Ball at Balfour-Guthrie Park
- Week of August 21:** Get all Tangled up at McClarren Park
- Week of August 28:** Happy Trails to You! at a local trail
- Week of September 4:** Catch a Ride at Caboose Park
- Week of September 11:** Swing it at Summerwood Park

We provide the fun with these staff-hosted events . . .

- Saturday, August 13** “Dog Day Afternoon” at King Park, 9-11a.m.
- Saturday, September 24** “Play Day” at Veterans Park 2-4 p.m., and enjoy a \$2 swim at the Brentwood Family Aquatic Complex 4-6 p.m.

For more information: Poldina Scherff (925) 516-5444

Downtown Trees are Back!

In response to concerns regarding the removal of trees Downtown, the City hand-selected a few new species of trees last year that will provide shade in the hot summers, fall and flower color, and minimal debris. They continued to grow at the nurseries, ensuring that they be as large possible when replanted Downtown. As the project nears completion, the majority of trees have been planted in the Downtown core area, and the flowering shrub landscaping



has begun. The 48” box Autumn Purple Ash trees on First Street are 15’ to 20’ tall, and have canopies in the 8’ range. The Allee elm trees on Chestnut and Oak streets are also very tall with large canopies, and flowering Crepe myrtles were planted on each corner for additional color. Trees will later be decorated with string lights, adding a special ambience to the evenings in Downtown.

For more information: Community Development (925) 516-5405

City Council, City Staff

City Council:

- Robert Taylor, *Mayor*
- Steve Barr, *Vice Mayor*
- Robert A. Brockman, *Council Member*
- Joel R. Bryant, *Council Member*
- Erick Stonebarger, *Council Member*

City Administration:

- City Manager – Donna Landeros
- Assistant City Manager – Karen Chew
- Assistant City Manager – Paul Eldredge
- City Attorney – Damien Brower
- City Clerk – Margaret Wimberly

Community Development

- Casey McCann, *Director*
- Finance & Information Systems**
Pam Ehler, *Director*
- Parks & Recreation**
Craig Bronzan, *Director*
- Police**
Mark Evenson, *Chief of Police*
- Public Works**
Bailey Grewal, *Director/City Engineer*

Please refer to our Web site for City Council, City Meetings and City Phone Numbers ■ City General Phone: 516-5400 ■ City Hearing Impaired: 516-5409