



Contra Costa County

The Link

LINKING RESIDENTS OF CONTRA COSTA COUNTY TO GOVERNMENT SERVICES

ISSUE 1

VERSION 3

2011

Special points of interest:

- * Neighborhood Preservation Program
- * Make an appointment with a planner near your home
- * Neighborhood Traffic Management Program

Inside this issue:

Building Inspection	2
Public Works	4
Community Development	6
Programs and Services Contacts	7
Community Liaison Contact Information	8

Departments working together to provide municipal services

Welcome to the first issue of The Link. The purpose of The Link is to provide the residents of Contra Costa County a link to available government services.

The Department of Conservation and Development (includes the former Building Inspection and Community Development Departments), and the Public Works Department are working together to improve the delivery of municipal services to the residents of Contra Costa County.

The Link Newsletter is an annual

publication that provides information on available municipal services. Throughout the newsletter, there are service descriptions and information about how to find out more information on those services.

If you are not sure who to contact at the County, The Link provides a quick reference list of community liaisons and services on the back page of the newsletter. The community liaisons can help answer your municipal service question or direct you in an efficient way to the correct person in the County organiza-

tion to help you.

County staff is also available to attend local community meetings and events. Such events present great opportunities for the County to answer questions community members might have about the roles and responsibilities of the staff delivering municipal services.

We look forward to working with the various communities in Contra Costa County to provide the best municipal services to our residents.

Reuse & Recycling Assistance

There are many locations and services that provide local residents and businesses with options to reuse or recycle many items instead of throwing them away, which can save money and helps the environment. The County Recycling Hotline provides detailed information about local reuse and recycling options available for a wide range of materials. You can access details by visiting www.cccrecycle.org or calling 1-800-750-4096. Call us if you have general questions

related to recycling and waste services.

Did you know that it is now ILLEGAL to dispose of Household Batteries, Fluorescent Bulbs and Tubes, Mercury Thermometers and many Electronic Devices* in the trash or landfill?

Visit www.cccrecycle.org or call 1-800-750-4096 to find out about local options to recycle these items, including Free E-Waste Events.

* Electronic Devices (or E-waste) includes but is not limited to Computers, Printers, VCRs, Radios, Cordless Phones, Cell Phones and Answering Machines.



Contra Costa County Board of Supervisors

John Gioia, District I
11780 San Pablo Avenue, Ste D
El Cerrito, CA 94530
(510) 374-3231
(510) 374-3429 FAX

Mary Piepho, District III
309 Diablo Road
Danville, CA 94526
(925) 820-8683
(925) 820-6627 FAX

Federal Glover, District V
315 E. Leland Avenue
Pittsburg, CA 94565
(925) 427-8138
(925) 427-8142 FAX

Gayle B. Uilkema, District II
651 Pine Street, Room 108A
Martinez, CA 94553
(925) 335-1046
(925) 335-1076 FAX

Karen Mitchoff, District IV
2151 Salvio Street, Ste R
Concord, CA 94520
(925) 521-7100
(925) 646-5202 FAX

DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION AND DEVELOPMENT BUILDING INSPECTION DIVISION

Neighborhood Preservation

The Neighborhood Preservation Program is a program operated by the Contra Costa County Building Inspection Division. The program's purpose is to provide loans to low and moderate-income persons to improve their homes by correcting health and safety problems and improving livability.

Housing rehabilitation loans are available throughout the entire county of Contra Costa except for the incorporated limits of the cities of Concord, Pittsburg, and Richmond. Each of these communities operates their own programs and may be contacted directly for information. Services provided may include, but is not limited to reroofing, plumbing/heating/electrical repairs, termite and dry rot repair, exterior painting, energy conservation and security.

There are many benefits of housing rehabilitation. For 90% of Americans the purchase of a home is the largest investment made. It makes sense to protect and enhance the value of that investment. Some benefits to the homeowner (your goals) include making your home healthy and safe to live in, taking pride in making your home more livable and attractive, and maintaining and improving the value of the home. There are also benefits to the Community (the County's goal). Improving the quality of life in the neighborhood and the quality of the housing stock overall. The County also keeps the quality of housing within the financial reach of low and moderate-income families.

There are two types of loans available, which are low-interest loans (3%) for up to \$40,000 and zero-interest deferred payment loans for up to \$40,000. For ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS please see our website at www.cccounty.us, Conservation and Development, Building Inspection.

Housing occupied by senior citizens is generally in greater need of repair because their homes are generally older and the elderly generally have reduced incomes which as a result, tend to defer maintenance. Some benefits to seniors citizens include making your home a healthier, more secure, and pleasant place to live, enhancing the livability of your house because you may spend more time at home, removing physical barriers which make it difficult to go in and out of your house, maintaining and improving the value of your home, and allowing you to continue living in the familiar surroundings of your neighborhood and friends.

You may be concerned that you can't afford to rehabilitate your home because your monthly income is limited. Our loan assistance program allows you to use the equity, which you have accumulated over the years, to make needed repairs. Many senior citizens qualify for deferred loans and may not need to make monthly payments. Please call on us to provide you with advice in this area. For additional Neighborhood Preservation information call (925) 335-1137.

Residential Rental Inspection

On July 26, 2005, the Contra Costa County Board of Supervisors adopted Ordinance No. 2005-17 establishing the Residential Rental Inspection Program (RRIP). The ordinance was established to proactively identify blighted and deteriorated housing stock and ensure the rehabilitation or abatement of housing that does not comply with State and local building, electrical, fire and plumbing code standards. The ordinance also promotes the safety and preservation of all single and multiple-family residential rental units and enhances the quality of life for residents of the County.

The Ordinance mandates inspection of all rental units including Single Family homes, Residential Hotels and Section 8 housing. Under this new Ordinance, rental units and their premises are to be inspected over a 5 year cycle. If a unit is in full compliance with applicable codes and standards, it will not be inspected for the next five years. If on the other hand a unit is determined to pose a substantial threat to health and safety, it will be placed on a bi-annual inspection cycle.

The scope of the program includes inspecting for both interior and exterior unit conditions. A professional Building Inspector will make arrangements to be accompanied by the property owner or designee. During the inspection, the inspector will focus primarily on health and safety concerns. An Inspection Checklist is available on our website at www.cccounty.us, Conservation and Development, Building Inspection.

The initial fee and per unit fee includes the initial inspection and a courtesy re-inspection. If an inspection needs to be made a third or fourth time, a "Notice of Violation" may be issued indicating the specific item(s) that still needs correction, with a timeframe for completion. A "Certificate of Approval" will be issued for properties successfully completing the Residential Inspection Program.

If you have any questions or need additional information regarding the Residential Inspection Program, please contact us at (925) 335-1170.

Weatherization

The Weatherization Program (WP) is a Federal and State funded program whose purpose is to assist low and/ or fixed income people in making their homes more energy efficient. The program is available regardless of whether you own or rent, live in a house, apartment, or a mobile home. Once a client's application has been accepted, a qualified representative of the program will come out to your home and do an on-site assessment consisting of an inspection of all gas appliances. The WP will test your gas appliance(s) to determine if they are operating properly and safely. Any gas appliances that fail the inspection, will be repaired or replaced. In addition to the appliance inspection, the inspector will conduct an evaluation of the home to determine what energy saving measures are needed. The energy saving improvements may include:

- Installation of ceiling installation, gas furnace repair or replacement
- Weather-stripping of exterior doors, gas stove repair or replacement
- Replacement of exterior doors, if necessary
- Installation of a carbon monoxide alarm
- Installation of programmable thermostats
- Replacement of broken windows
- Gas water heater repair or replacement
- Plug gaskets
- Installation of water saving devices
- Other minor home repairs

For an application and details please call us at (925) 313-1116.

PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT

Streetlights

The Special Districts section of the Contra Costa County Public Works Department is responsible for streetlights in the unincorporated areas of Contra Costa County. Lighting districts have been established throughout many areas of the County to provide lighting along public rights-of-way to improve the safety of Contra Costa County residents. To find out if your parcel is part of a lighting district, call (925) 313-2286, or check your property tax bill to see if a lighting assessment is included under the assessment listings.

What if a streetlight is out? If you notice that a streetlight is out, please note the location and, if possible, the identifying number painted on the pole, and report the problem by calling (925) 313-2286. Staff will then verify the location and pole number, determine if the streetlight is the County's responsibility or that of PG&E, and arrange for repair of the light.

The Public Works Department sometimes receives comments regarding a streetlight shining through windows and keeping residents awake. If you encounter this problem, please contact (925) 313-2286. Public Works staff will adjust the light, tilting it so that it shines in a different direction. If this is not sufficient, a shield may be installed at the property owner's expense.



Street Sweeping

The Street Sweeping Program in Contra Costa County is funded by the County Watershed Program. It includes sweeping all publicly maintained streets with curb and gutter in unincorporated areas once per month. Residents can help keep our street sweeping program effective and efficient by following these street sweeping tips:

- Keep the roadway in front of your property clear of any obstructions. Remove ramps and other impediments prior to your sweeping time.
- Remove large pieces of debris from the gutter.
- Do not pile debris into the street including leaves, vegetation and wood.
- Use garbage cans, recycle bins, and litterbags to dispose of litter.
- Move your vehicle, garbage/recycle containers and any other obstruction from the street prior to your scheduled sweeping time.
- Remind your neighbors of the sweeping schedule and encourage them to remove their personal property from the street on these days.

If your scheduled sweeping day falls on a government observed holiday, your street will be swept on the same day the following week. Street sweeping is affected by rain. Sweepers cannot operate in wet weather since saturated debris is too heavy to vacuum up. The sweeping schedule is subject to change when it rains. The sweeping schedule is available on the Public Works Department's website: www.cccpublicworks.org or contact the County Watershed Program at (925) 313-2236 to confirm your sweeping day.

Illegal Dumping

Illegal dumping of trash on public property, roads, and private lots has become a major problem in Contra Costa County. The Public Works Department must budget over \$400,000 per year to pick up trash dumped illegally on public roads. This is \$400,000 that could be used to improve our roads, fix potholes, construct bike lanes, and clean drainage ditches.

If you see suspicious activities involving illegal dumping, please note the type of vehicle, license plate number, or any other identifying features and report the information to local law enforcement.



To report illegal dumping or spills, call 1-800-NODUMPING (1-800-663-8674). If you need an immediate response call 911. For further information, visit www.cccleanwater.org/contact.us. To report illegal dumping along unincorporated County roads, call (925) 313-7000.

Neighborhood Traffic Management Program

Have you ever asked yourself, "How do I get cars to slow down in my neighborhood?" or, "How do I stop commuters from using my street as an alternative commute route?" If so, you are not alone. One of the most persistent citizen complaints that the Contra Costa County Public Works Department receives is speeding and through-traffic on residential streets.

Contra Costa County strives to make residential streets as quiet and safe as possible, while still providing access for people and businesses. To this end, the County has developed a neighborhood traffic management program booklet that contains measures designed to reduce traffic speed and discourage through-traffic on local residential streets. Each measure has its own specific application, prerequisites and constraints, and minimum requirements for implementation. These measures, when appropriately implemented, are self-enforcing and achieve the intended effect on traffic. The control measures, however, are not recommended for larger roadways such as arterials or collectors that are identified as primary emergency response routes.

We encourage you to review this booklet and learn about the traffic controls that are available to help slow down and reduce traffic in your neighborhood. For more information, please visit us at www.cccpublicworks.org or call us at (925) 313-2234.

Frequently Asked Traffic Questions

The Public Works Department's Traffic Section developed the Top 10 Traffic Questions, such as:

- Can we have a STOP sign to control speeding?
- Does the County install speed humps?
- Can our street have "SLOW CHILDREN AT PLAY" signs?

For the answers to these questions and more traffic related information, please visit our website at: www.cccpublicworks.org.

DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION AND DEVELOPMENT COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DIVISION

Planner by Appointment Program

The County initiated the Planner by Appointment Program in January 2007. The Program allows citizens to schedule an appointment with a member of the planning staff in any one of five communities around the County. Planners arrive for appointments with all pertinent research related to a citizen's inquiry already completed and via laptop are able to access the Department of Conservation and Development's digital records and geographic information systems in case additional information is required. This allows planners to provide an equal level of service regardless of whether they are assisting the public at the Department's office in Martinez or in another community.

The Department of Conservation and Development is currently scheduling appointments for you to meet with a planner. So far we have locations in various parts of East, West and Central Contra Costa County. You'll be able to meet with a planner face-to-face to go over questions and concerns about any local land use issue. To find out more about this service or to find the nearest location and schedule an appointment, please contact the Department of Conservation and Development at (925) 335-1210. Appointments are available within three to five days.

Geographic Information System (GIS) Services

The Department of Conservation and Development includes a GIS group that brings a unique set of GIS technical skills, cartography, urban planning, editing, and graphic design to the department. The GIS group is responsible for developing and maintaining the County's General Plan Land Use Map, Zoning Maps and dozens of integral GIS datasets. We provide maps to planners evaluating development applications, and assist with complicated analysis for public policy development. The Habitat Conservation Plan (HCP) and Housing Element Update are examples of large ongoing GIS group analysis projects.

The GIS group can provide custom GIS and demographic services for the public, government agencies, businesses, or non-profit entities. Examples of services include data analysis, demographic requests, data development assistance, and specialized maps (including large format maps). Services are provided for a fee since we do not receive funding from the County General Fund. Our rates are \$100/hr plus the cost of printing. Please contact Kristine Solseng at (925) 313-4371 if you have any questions or mapping requests.

Green Building

Green building is a "whole-systems" approach for designing and constructing buildings that conserve energy, water and material resources. Green buildings are generally healthier, safer and more comfortable to occupy. Free resources are available locally to encourage use of green building materials and techniques when remodeling or constructing new homes, including free Green Building Guidelines and the "Ask an Expert" program. For more details about any of these resources, visit www.cccrecycle.org/greenbuilding or call (925) 335-1224.

Programs and Services Contact Information

Public Works Department	Department of Conservation and Development	
	Building Inspection Division	Community Development Division
Airport Operations (925) 646-5722	ADA Accessibility for Disabled (925) 335-1158	Advance Planning (925) 335-1242
Contractor Information (925) 313-2320	Application and Permit Center (925) 335-1360	Affordable Housing (925) 335-7223
Flood Control District (925) 313-2270	Bond Release (925) 335-1166	Airport Land Use Commission (925) 335-1206
Floodplain Program (925) 313-2351	Cancel A Permit—Building (925) 335-1109	Applications Fees (925) 335-1381
Graffiti Removal—Public Property (925) 313-7000	Code Enforcement—Building and Zoning (925) 335-1111	Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) (925) 335-7200
Illegal Dumping (800) no dumping	Drainage Plan Letter Requirements (925) 335-1123	Conservation Programs (925) 335-1228
Neighborhood Traffic Management Program (925) 313-2234	East County Building Inspection Office (925) 427-8850	Construction and Demolition Debris Recovery (925) 335-1231
Permits—Public Works (925) 335-1375	Engineering Questions—Building (925) 335-1119	Current Planning Information (925) 335-1381
Potholes (925) 313-7000	Fax Building Permit Applications (925) 646-4108	Disposal Facilities (Transfer Stations and Landfills) (925) 335-1225
Records—Public Works (925) 313-2000	Fee Schedule/Fee Estimates (925) 335-1360	Geographic Information System (925) 313-4371
Road Maintenance (925) 313-7000	Grading Permits/Inspection (925) 335-1123	Green Building— Residential Construction/ Remodeling (925) 335-1230
Street Lighting (925) 313-2286	Graffiti—Private Property (925) 335-1111	Municipal Advisory Council (MAC's) (925) 335-1381
Street Signs (925) 313-2262	Inspection Times (925) 646-4108	Planner By Appointment (925) 335-1210
Street Sweeping (925) 313-2236	Plan Check Status (925) 335-1132	Recycling Hotline (800) 750-4096
Surveys (925) 313-2343	Records - Building (925) 335-1177	Redevelopment Agency (925) 335-7200
Traffic (925) 313-2276	Residential Rental Inspections (925) 335-1170	Transportation Planning (925) 335-1240

**DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION AND DEVELOPMENT
AND THE PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT
COMMUNITY LIAISON CONTACT INFORMATION**

Alamo

Jerry Fahy (925) 313-2276, PWD
Joe Losado (925) 335-1141, Building
John Osborne (925) 335-1207, Planning

Alhambra Valley/Briones

Rene Urbina (925) 313-2308, PWD
Tyrone Ridgle (925) 335-1147, Building
John Osborne (925) 335-1207, Planning

Bay Point

Jerry Fahy (925) 313-2276, PWD
Robert Erickson (925) 427-8846, Building
Maureen Toms (925) 335-7230, Planning

Bethel Island

Mark De La O (925) 313-2234, PWD
Conrad Fromme (925) 427-8843, Building
Ruben Hernandez (925) 335-1339,
Planning

Byron

Adelina Huerta (925) 313-2305, PWD
Patty Cookson (925) 427-8841, Building
Lashun Cross (925) 335-1229, Planning

Canyon

Alex Rivas (925) 313-2161, PWD
Tyron Ridgle, (925) 335-1147, Building
Lashun Cross (925) 335-1229, Planning

Clayton

Jerry Fahy (925) 313-2276, PWD
Larry Tolson (925) 427-8842, Building
Lashun Cross (925) 335-1229, Planning

Clyde

Angela Villar (925) 313-2016, PWD
Larry Tolson (925) 427-8842, Building
Lashun Cross (925) 335-1229, Planning

Concord (unincorporated)

Jerry Fahy (925) 313-2276, PWD
Larry Tolson (925) 427-8842, Building
Lashun Cross (925) 335-1229, Planning

**Contra Costa Centre/Pleasant Hill
BART area**

Jerry Fahy (925) 313-2276, PWD
Larry Tolson (925) 427-8842, Building
Maureen Toms (925) 335-7230, Planning

Crockett

Mark De la O (925) 313-2234, PWD
Tyrone Ridgle (225) 335-1147, Building
Ryan Hernandez (925) 335-1206, Planning

Diablo

Billilee Balangan (925) 313-2188, PWD
Joe Losado (925) 335-1141, Building
Lashun Cross (925) 335-1229, Planning

Discovery Bay

Jerry Fahy (925) 313-2276, PWD
Patty Cookson (925) 427-8841, Building
John Osborne (925) 335-1207, Planning

Dougherty Valley

Billilee Balangan (925) 313-2188, PWD
Joe Losado (925) 335-1141, Building
Telma Moreira (925) 335-1217, Planning

East Richmond Heights

Fil Uy (925) 313-2168, PWD
Vincent Caballero (925) 335-1142, Building
Ruben Hernandez (925) 335-1339,
Planning

El Sobrante

Chris Lau (925) 313-2293, PWD
Vincent Caballero (925) 335-1142, Building
Ruben Hernandez (925) 335-1339,
Planning

Kensington

Rene Urbina (925) 313-2308, PWD
Vincent Caballero (925) 335-1142, Building
Ryan Hernandez (925) 335-1206, Planning

Knightsen

Adelina Huerta (925) 313-2305, PWD
Patty Cookson (925) 427-8841, Building
Ryan Hernandez (925) 335-1206, Planning

Lafayette (unincorporated)

Mary Halle (925) 313-2327, PWD
Tyrone Ridgle (925) 335-1147, Building
David Brockbank (925) 335-1216, Planning

Montalvin Manor

Fil Uy (925) 313-2262, PWD
Vincent Caballero (925) 335-1142, Building
Gabriel Lemus (925) 335-7229, Planning

Morgan Territory

Jerry Fahy (925) 313-2276, PWD
Joe Losado (925) 335-1141, Building
Lashun Cross (925) 335-1229, Planning

Northgate

Mary Halle (925) 313-2327, PWD
Joe Losado (925) 335-1141, Building
John Osborne (925) 335-1207, Planning

North Richmond

Fil Uy (925) 313-2262, PWD
Lou Reinthaler (925) 335-1146, Building
D'Andre Wells (925) 335-7236, Planning

Pacheco

Angela Villar, (925) 313-2016, PWD
Larry Tolson (925) 427-8842, Building
John Osborne (925) 335-1207, Planning

Pleasant Hill (unincorporated)

Jerry Fahy (925) 313-2276, PWD
Larry Tolson (925) 427-8842, Building
John Osborne (925) 335-1207, Planning

Port Costa

Rene Urbina (925) 313-2308, PWD
Tyrone Ridgle (925) 335-1147, Building
Ryan Hernandez (925) 335-1206, Planning

Rodeo

Adelina Huerta (925) 313-2305, PWD
Tyrone Ridgle (925) 335-1147, Building
David Brockbank (925) 335-1216, Planning

Rollingwood

Fil Uy (925) 313-2262, PWD
Vincent Caballero (925) 335-1142, Building
Ruben Hernandez (925) 335-1339,
Planning

Saranap/unincorporated Walnut Creek

Mary Halle (925) 313-2327, PWD
Joe Losado (925) 335-1141, Building
Lashun Cross (925) 335-1229, Planning

Tara Hills/San Pablo

Fil Uy (925) 313-2262, PWD
Tyrone Ridgle (925) 335-1147, Building
Ruben Hernandez (925) 335-1339,
Planning

Tassajara Valley/unincorporated Danville

Mary Halle (925) 313-2327, PWD
Joe Losado (925) 335-1141, Building
Ryan Hernandez (925) 335-1206, Planning

**Vine Hill/Mountain View/
unincorporated Martinez**

Angela Villar (925) 313-2016, PWD
Tyrone Ridgle (925) 335-1147, Building
Ryan Hernandez (925) 335-1206, Planning

** PWD—Public Works Department