



# Mountain House Community Services District Newsletter

*The Mission of the District is to Provide Responsive  
Service to our Growing Community  
that Exceeds Expectations at a Fair Value*

**September  
2016**

## **WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT THE STORMWATER SYSTEM**

Mountain House maintains an intricate, gravity-based storm water system built around a number of detention basins that discharge storm water runoff to Mountain House Creek. The BMP detention basins are located within the Mountain House Creek corridor.

Mountain House has implemented a series of wet and dry detention basins as part of their regional BMP treatment process. The regional BMP treatment consists of 25 detention basins, with 17 dry detention and 8 wet detention basins. The BMP basins are designed to capture and detain runoff from storm events, which serves to control erosion, remove pollutants, and create habitat for wildlife. Treatment processes include sedimentation, absorption, filtration, and biological uptake. Runoff is treated within the basins and slowly released into a pair of perforated pipes buried in a gravel bed for dry detention basins. Given a sufficient detention period, a substantial reduction of target pollutants can be achieved prior to its discharge into Mountain House Creek. Mountain House Creek is a tributary to Old River located to the north of the Community.

### **Dog waste is a major contributor to stormwater pollution:**

Dog waste is cited as the 3rd or 4th largest contributor of bacterial pollution in urban watersheds. The average dog produces approximately 3/4 pounds of poop every day. 1,000 dogs will produce 750 pounds of excrement a week. That's a lot of poop! Do your part- pick up after your dog. It's the neighborly thing to do!

Dog feces have higher phosphorous concentrations than found in cow and swine manure. Phosphorus is a nutrient that negatively impacts water quality and plant species. Nitrogen, found in dog urine, also causes contaminated runoff and leads to serious water quality issues.

### **Q: Why should I pick it up (even if it's on my own property)?**

**A:** The pathogens in pet waste are harmful to the health of humans, animals, and the environment.

**PUBLIC PROPERTY:** Local animal control ordinances declare it is unlawful to leave pet waste on public property and require its immediate removal.

**PRIVATE PROPERTY:** Local water quality and health ordinances also apply to private property and could result in enforcement, including fines, if it can be determined that pet waste, or its pathogens, on your property are being washed into storm drains or waterways, or if the accumulation of waste is a nuisance or menace to health.

### **Q: How should I dispose of pet waste?**

**A:** Scoop the poop, bag it, and put it in the trash (garbage).

### **Q: Can I put pet waste in the trash (garbage)?**

**A:** Yes, this is the preferred disposal method. By putting pet waste in the trash, it prevents the waste from becoming a source of pollution in our creek. Landfills are designed to safely handle substances such as dog waste, cat litter, and dirty diapers.

Many people already place their dog waste in the trash because it's convenient. Some hide it in the trashcan because they think it's prohibited. Don't worry! It's allowed. If you are already placing it in the trash, keep up the good work!

## **SCHEDULE OF MHCS D EVENTS**

Board meetings and committee meetings are held in the Michael Forbes McGrew Board Room at the CSD office. For class and event locations please see below. If you would like additional information on the classes or events please contact Angel Lamb at [alamb@sjgov.org](mailto:alamb@sjgov.org). Please subscribe to the Google Calendar.

### **Weight Watchers Community Series**

Date: Tuesday's in September

Time: 5:30pm - 6:30pm

Location: Firehouse

### **Music Together Class**

Date: Tuesday's beginning September 13th

Time: 9:30a-10:15a and 10:30a-11:15a

Location: Firehouse

Cost: \$145 for 8 week session

Ages: 0-5 yrs

### **Tiny Toes Gymnastics Class**

Date: Monday's, in September

Time: Times Vary please see MHCS D Calendar

Location: Wicklund Park

Cost: \$50

Ages: Vary

### **Suzuki Early Childhood Class**

Date: Saturday's beginning September 10th

Time: 9:00a-10:00a

Location: Firehouse

Cost: \$175 for the session

Ages: 0 to 3 yrs

### **Basic Art Concepts**

Date: Thursday's in September

Time: 4:00p-5:00p

Location: Firehouse

Cost: \$8 per class

Ages: 5 to 9yrs

### **Trendy Tuesday**

Date: Tuesday, September 6, 2016

Time: 7:00 pm – 9:00 pm

Location: Firehouse

### **Community Campout**

Date: Friday, September 9, 2016

Time: 6:00 pm – 10:00 am

Location: Central Park

Must register to participate

### **Youth Action Committee Meeting**

Date: Tuesday, September 13, 2016

Time: 7:00 pm

For more information please contact

Director Tingle at [btingle@sjgov.org](mailto:btingle@sjgov.org)

**Q: Can I bury or compost pet waste?**

**A:** Composting and burial do not kill hazardous pathogens that may be in the waste and can pollute water. Landfills are designed to safely handle substances such as dog waste, cat litter, and dirty diapers. Yards are not. Most home compost piles don't reach temperatures sufficient to kill many hazardous pathogens.

Extended exposure at 140-degree temperatures is required to kill E. coli and Salmonella. Giardia can survive temperature extremes, chlorination, and drying. Cryptosporidium, Leptospira, Salmonella, and E. coli can survive for months in feces or soil. Roundworms can survive for four years in soil. Even commercial yard waste processors do not currently compost waste at temperatures sufficient to kill many pathogens in pet waste, so don't put dog waste in the yard waste bins for curbside pickup.

**Q: Isn't pet waste "biodegradable" or "natural"?**

**A:** Pet waste is biodegradable in that it decomposes under natural conditions, but the harmful bacteria, viruses, and parasites in it can continue to live on even though the waste pile seems to have disappeared. When pet waste is washed into streams or bays, the waste decomposes, using up the oxygen in the water and releasing ammonia. Under those conditions and warm water temperatures, fish and other aquatic life can be killed. Pet waste also contains nutrients that encourage weed and algae growth.

**Q: Why can't I use it as fertilizer?**

**A:** Pet waste contains bacteria, viruses, and parasites that are harmful to the health of humans, animals, and the environment. Some of these pathogens can live in the soil for four years.

**ONLY RAIN DOWN THE DRAIN**

Please **report any illicit discharge** into our storm drain systems to **Mountain House Community Services District 209-831-2300**

**TREE MAINTENANCE IS EVERYONE'S RESPONSABILITY**

Article 4 Section 4.02 of the MH Master Restrictions state, "All trees located in the park strip shall be trimmed by a professional tree trimmer in such a manner as to cause the tree to grow in an arch over the adjacent sidewalk and street and in conformity." The park strip is the homeowner's responsibility.

If a professional is not affordable, we encourage residents to become knowledgeable by the reading publications on correct pruning techniques before attempting any pruning.

Improper pruning destroys the natural structure of the tree. Once this occurs the tree is forever changed and will not match surrounding trees.

Trees that are left with tree stakes attached after 2 years will develop weak trunks and become dependent on the stake. If this stake is not removed within the proper time (1-2 years) it will impact the trunk of the tree and the tree ties may become embedded into the bark.

Our ultimate goal is to have large majestic trees arching over our neighborhood streets. It adds to the beauty of the community, cleans our air, provides habitat and makes our community feel like home.

We will continue to insert articles into the monthly newsletter on tree pruning and maintenance. If you have any questions we are always available.

**SCHEDULE OF MHCS D EVENTS CONTINUED**

**Restaurant Night**

Date: Tuesday, September 13, 2016  
Time: 5:00 pm – 8:00 pm  
Location: Central Park

**Assemblyperson Susan Eggman**

Date: Wednesday, September 14, 2016  
Time: 10:00 am – 11:30am

**MHCS D Board of Directors Meeting**

Date: Wednesday, September 14, 2016  
Time: 7:00pm

**Music in the Park**

Date: Saturday, September 17, 2016  
Time: 5:00 pm – 8:00 pm  
Location: Central Park

**Trendy Tuesday**

Date: Tuesday, September 20, 2016  
Time: 7:00 pm – 9:00 pm  
Location: Firehouse

**Restaurant Night**

Date: Thursday, September 22, 2016  
Time: 5:00 pm – 8:00 pm  
Location: Central Park

**UPCOMING ACTIVITIES AND EVENTS**

If your group has an activity open to the community in Mountain House please send that information to Angel Lamb no later than the 10<sup>th</sup> of the month to be included in the newsletter.

**Mountain House Rotary**

Date: 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Friday's  
Time: 9:00am – 10:00am  
Location: Firehouse

For more information please contact Christina Oh at ohchristinaoh@gmail.com

**Family Fit MH Club**

Monday's, Wednesday's and Friday's  
Time: 6:00am and 9:00am  
Saturday's  
Time: 8:00am

Location: Wicklund Park

For more information please contact Jaime Montenegro at sscjaime@yahoo.com

**Mountain's Hope Community Day**

Date: Saturday, October 1, 2016  
Time: 10:00a – 3:00p  
Location: Central Park

For more information please contact Carolyn Ross at 510.821.3084

**YOUTH ACTION COMMITTEE**

The Youth Action Committee is currently looking for volunteers to assist with tutoring in the Mountain House Library on Monday & Tuesday nights from 5:00 PM to 7:00 PM. Community Service hours will be earned for your participation. If you are interested please contact Director Bernice Tingle at btingle@sjgov.org.