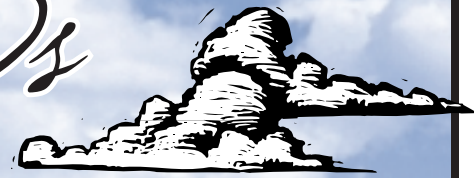




CCSD *news*



A PUBLIC SERVICE OF THE CAMBRIA COMMUNITY SERVICES DISTRICT • SUMMER 2002 • VOL. 1, ISSUE 1

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

- Peter Chaldecott, President
- Joan T. Cobin
- Ilan Funke-Bilu
- Helen May
- Donald Villeneuve

CAMBRIA COMMUNITY SERVICES DISTRICT

1316 Tamson Drive, Suite 201
PO Box 65
Cambria, CA 93428

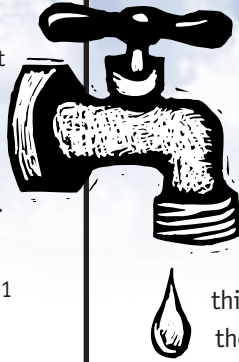
805/927-6223
Fax: 805/927-5584

HOURS

9:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m.
Monday through Friday

EMERGENCY NUMBERS

Fire and Medical: 911
After-hours Water and Wastewater:
927-6223
Fire Department Daytime
Non-Emergency: 927-6240



Community Urged to Reduce Water Usage

Historically, Cambrians have been excellent water conservationists. However, given this year's scant rainfall, we are urging everyone to minimize water use even further. Through the purchase of riparian water rights and the development of the Water Master Plan, the District is taking both short and long-term measures to ensure an adequate water supply. We greatly appreciate your help during this extremely dry season.

Under CCSD Ordinance 4-2000, the following water conservation rules apply to all residents and businesses at all times:

WATER CONSERVATION RULES

- Do not allow water to run off onto other properties or the street.
- Unattended watering/irrigation of landscaping is prohibited.
- Do not irrigate landscape between 10:00 a.m. and 6:00 p.m.
- Irrigation should only provide sufficient water to maintain minimal landscaping needs.
- Do not wash down sidewalks, driveways, parking lots, etc. Use a broom. (Continued on page 3)

Inside

- * District Reorganizes 2
- Tips on Conserving Water . . . 3
- District to Raise Rates 4
- * MtBE Update 4
- Remodeling Regulations 4
- Water Master Plan Status . . . 4
- * Fire & Safety Tips 4-5
- PROS Corner 5
- * Trails and Open Space 6
- Posted Notes 6
- Frequently Asked Questions 7

High Fire Risk in Pines

The Fire Department is asking all Cambria residents to be extra cautious about fire use during this extremely dry season. This has been one of the most destructive fire seasons in America's history. Like many other heavily forested areas, Cambria is at high risk for a wildland fire. The Fire Department is making every effort to reduce Cambria's fire vulnerability including the recent fire hazard fuel reduction program, which removed tons of potentially flammable material from the community.

Following are some important steps you can take now to maximize the survival of your home or business during a wild-fire. Additional information will be available at the CCSD's new web site in the fall.

VEGETATION

- Remove dead vegetation from the exterior of your home. In a flat area, there should be a minimum 30-foot clearance; in a steep or hilly area, 50 to 300 feet of clearance is necessary. (Continued on page 4)



GM's Message



We are pleased to reinstate the *CCSD News* following a one-year hiatus and will continue to publish it on a quarterly basis. A new CCSD web site will also be online within the next few months to provide timely information on key topics.

For the past few years, the CCSD has been expending substantial resources addressing MtBE groundwater contamination, a water moratorium, East-West Ranch acquisition, Main Street enhancements, Cross Town Trail construction and many other projects. These issues are far more complex than a small water district typically must deal with and have caused many of the District's "normal" functions to be delayed or not completed. The situation was greatly compounded last summer when several key staff members resigned almost simultaneously from the CCSD.



We have made a concerted effort during the past year to identify and implement necessary changes and address key issues that will bring long-term stability to the District's entire operation. These include:

- A Water Master Plan designed to guide the development of Cambria's water system to meet current and future water demands
- Short-term solutions to potential water shortages due to a lack of rainfall in 2002
- A draft management plan for the East-West Ranch to address the property's uses and resources
- A comprehensive budget that allows for crucial capital improvements for fire protection programs and eliminates deficit spending in our water and wastewater departments
- Continuing treatment and responsible disposal of MtBE contaminated groundwater
- Extensive personnel reorganization and replacement to improve efficiency throughout the District

We greatly appreciate your patience and support during this challenging time. Our broad objective is to provide good government for the residents of Cambria. We strongly believe that in doing so, individual issues will be resolved for the community's benefit.

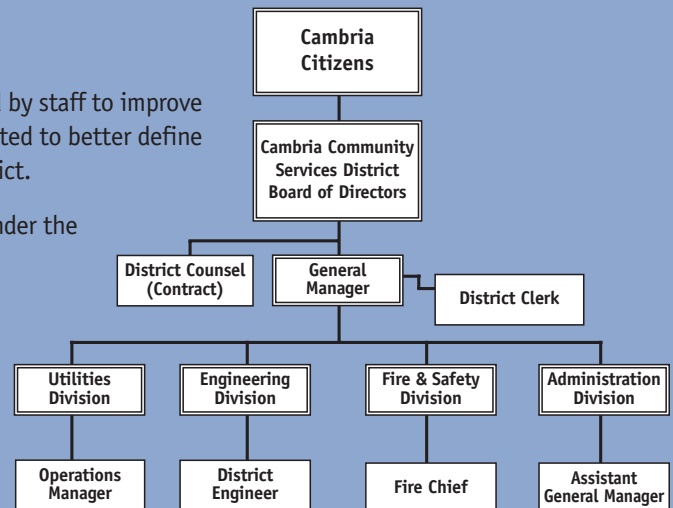


Vern Hamilton
Interim General Manager

* District Reorganizes

In April, the Board of Directors approved a reorganization recommended by staff to improve the effectiveness of all District operations: Distinct divisions were created to better define roles and improve efficiency and communication throughout the District.

- Water and Wastewater, which were separate departments, are now under the Utilities Division.
- A separate Engineering Division was created.
- The Fire Division broadened its role to cover all health and safety issues.
- The Administration Division was reorganized to handle all internal administrative functions.
- All four divisions now report to the newly created Executive Division, which reports to the Board of Directors.
- Due to increased work load, the position of Administrative Services Manager was divided into two positions: Assistant General Manager and Finance Officer.
- The Operations Manager and Wastewater Superintendent positions have been consolidated into one position.



(WATER CONSERVATION RULES, Continued)

- Repair leaks in plumbing or your water distribution system within eight hours of discovery.
- Wash cars with a bucket and only rinse with a hose that has a shutoff nozzle.
- Restaurants may not serve water to customers unless requested.
- Do not use potable water for dust control or construction activities.

If water use is reduced by voluntary means, further restrictions and additional costs can be avoided. For more information on water conservation methods, please contact Ben Boer at 927-6239.

MORE WATER SAVING TIPS

- Limit showers to 5 minutes.
- Install water efficient fixtures.
- Run only full loads in your washing machine and dishwasher.
- Don't leave water running while shaving or brushing your teeth.
- Use drought tolerant plants.
- Adjust watering schedule seasonally and with changes in the weather.
- Use drip (micro) irrigation systems.
- Periodically check your sprinkler system to ensure that it is operating properly.
- Replace lawns with low water usage landscaping.

PREVENTING IRRIGATION FAILURES

Many customers experience high water bills because of faulty irrigation systems. Most are out-of-town owners whose automatic irrigation systems fail without them knowing. Ben Boer, the District's Water Conservation Manager, says it's important to change the battery in the irrigation controller every year just like you would a smoke alarm. Power outages are common in Cambria and they can wreak havoc on automatic irrigation systems.

- Turn off the water supply line valve when shutting off the irrigation system.
- Before turning on the water to the system, make sure all manual shut-off valves are in the "closed" position.
- Open the main system valve slowly to fill pipes gradually. Valves opened too quickly can cause pressure surges that may damage the system and cause line breakage.
- Verify the proper operation of each zone valve by manually activating it from the controller.
- Check for proper rotation and angle of sprinkler heads and adequate coverage. Check and clean filters on poorly performing sprinklers.
- Reprogram the controller for automatic watering. Replace the controller back-up battery annually (especially important in power-outage prone Cambria).
- Uncover and clean the rain sensor if applicable.
- On drip irrigation systems, ensure that each emitter is distributing water equally and clean any in-line filters in each zone.

CHECKING FOR LEAKS

To keep track of your water use and determine if you have a leak, check your water meter frequently. Water meters are usually located at the front of your property in a green plastic or concrete box.

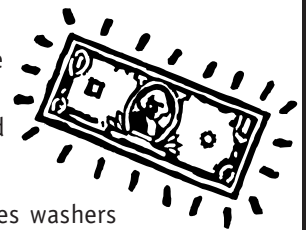
- 1. Billing Numbers.** The first four places on the left are used for billing. This number, minus the ending amount from the previous billing period, represents the number of water units used during the current billing period. One unit of water equals 100 cubic feet of water or 748 gallons.



- 2. Sweep hand on meter face.** One revolution equals one cubic foot or 7.48 gallons of water.
- 3. Red Triangle/Leak Detector.** This triangle rotates whenever water is flowing through the meter. If you turn off all your water fixtures and this triangle is moving, you have a leak.

RETROFIT REBATES OFFERED

To encourage water conservation, the District is offering the following rebates on owner-installed toilet retrofits and water saving washing machines:



- \$150 rebate on all residential clothes washers replaced with energy star rated machines that are water efficient.
- \$100 rebate on all 3.5 and 5.0 GPF (gallon-per-flush) toilets replaced with 1.5 GPF units.
- \$150 rebate on all toilets replaced with 1.0 GPF units

For more details, please call Joyce Hannum at 927-6225 or Ben Boer at 927-6239.

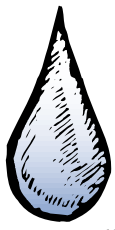
Trolley Schedule

The Cambria trolley was started four years ago and provides a valuable service for residents and tourists alike. The current schedule runs from 9:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. as follows:



- **June 16-September 16**–Thursday through Monday
- **September 17 through June 15**–Friday through Monday

For information on trolley stops, please contact Cambria Village Transit at 927-0468.



Water Drops

DISTRICT TO RAISE RATES

The CCSD has not raised its water and wastewater rates in close to a decade. As a result, the Water and Wastewater Departments have been running in a deficit mode for several years with no capital funding available for crucial infrastructure projects.



To correct the problem, the CCSD will soon implement a 17.5% water and wastewater rate increase that will be implemented over an 18-month period. Beginning in early fall, customers will see a 5.5% increase on their water bill. Two additional increases will be phased in during 2003. This increase will allow the District to improve the health of its finances and begin to make the necessary improvements in the Water and Wastewater Departments.

* MtBE UPDATE

Since January 2000, Chevron Corporation has been removing MtBE-contaminated groundwater at and around the Chevron gas station on Main Street. Chevron is currently trucking the removed water to a disposal and treatment site in the Los Angeles area. On March 4, 2002, the CCSD filed a lawsuit against Chevron and the Regional Water Quality Control Board (RWQCB) to block Chevron's plans to discharge MtBE-treated water into Santa Rosa Creek. An appeal to the RWQCB's approval of Chevron's plans was also filed by the CCSD on March 4. Both actions are pending.

REMODELING REGS CHANGE

As a result of the water shortage emergency, the CCSD has implemented tighter regulations governing home or business remodels. Fees for adding water fixtures to existing homes have increased. Adding a full bathroom to any home now costs a minimum of \$1,650. Individual fixture fees range from \$400 to \$1,000. The County will not process a building permit for any project without a water service clearance from the District. For more details, please contact Joyce Hannum at 927-6225.

* WATER MASTER PLAN PROGRESSES

District Engineer Bob Gresens is working with consultants on various aspects of the Water Master Plan (WMP), focusing first on fire safety. A preliminary assessment indicates additional tank storage is needed for use during a fire. A recycled water system is also being evaluated to provide water for future projects, including the new grammar school and proposed community park on the East Ranch. In addition, work is underway on the Water Resource Plan element of the WMP. This will look at long-term water supply options, such as desalination, Nacimiento water, and surface water storage. More details on the WMP will be available on the District's web site (cambriacsd.org) in the fall.

(FIRE & SAFETY-VEGETATION, Continued)

- Oil/resin filled plants such as Coyote Brush and Scotch or Irish broom burn as if they're soaked in kerosene. They should be reduced or eliminated.
- All trees with trunks larger than 4 feet should have their limbs removed 6 to 7 feet up from the ground.
- Ground debris, grass, and other plants should be trimmed to a maximum of 4 inches. These should be disposed of by chipping or hauled to a greenwaste facility.
- Clear roofs and rain gutters of dead vegetation.
- Place wood piles away from your home or business. Cover them with a heavy cotton tarp.
- Create a minimum 10-foot clearance around the wire from the electrical pole to your home.
- Place a 1/4" mesh spark arrestor around all chimneys. This will reduce the chance of burning embers from your chimney escaping and igniting a wildfire or a neighbor's home.

ROOFS

- When replacing your roof, purchase a non-combustible one. Wood roofs do not stay fire resistant longer than 8 years.

DECKS

- In a wildland fire, your wooden deck may catch fire first.
- Enclose the underside of your deck with fire-resistant materials.
- Place solid sheeting on your deck's surface so burning embers carried by the wind cannot ignite decking material, and especially the leaves and other materials that collect in the gaps.
- Install residential sprinklers under your deck that will activate the head(s) when a fire gets hot enough. These are inexpensive and can be installed by a plumber with a C-16 State license.
- Remove firewood and other combustible debris from under wooden decks.

EVACUATION

- Prepare a family evacuation plan for all types of emergencies.
- Establish a meeting place and a plan in case family members are in different locations when an emergency occurs.
- Have disaster supplies available near a door accessible from outside your home or business.

(Continued on page 5)

(FIRE & SAFETY, continued)

- Rotate supplies every year.
- People who elect to stay in their homes often become victims during an emergency.



OTHER PRECAUTIONS

- Home fires are often started by flame or fire left unattended in bedrooms or other rooms. Candles and incense should be used with extreme care. Make sure they're in noncombustible containers and cannot be toppled over by family pets. Never use a candle that exceeds the height of its container.
- Keep sparks out of your attic by placing mesh over vents. Many homes burn when embers enter the attic.
- Make sure all windows are closed tightly when you leave your property. Embers often enter buildings via open windows.
- Install a hose with an attached nozzle at every faucet in your yard to douse small vegetation fires.

PREVENT SUMMERTIME INJURIES



Injuries during the summer months are higher than at any other time of the year. Here are some simple safety tips that will ensure the health and well being of you and your loved ones during this injury-prone season.

- To prevent the dangers of dehydration, drink plenty of water
- Alcoholic beverages and sodas containing caffeine contribute to dehydration.
- Be careful around open flames from campfires, torches, barbecues, or cooking appliances that allow embers or flames to escape.
- Wear a helmet for any activity where head injuries are possible. It's the law for children.
- Wear a life jacket for ocean, lake or any other water activity. Remember it floats because you don't!
- Water wings can deflate and lead to child drownings. Don't use them!
- Don't dive into water if you don't know how deep it is. Diving can cause major head and neck injuries.
- Wear suntan lotion and/or clothing whenever you're working or playing outdoors.
- Sunburns cause dehydration and can lead to skin cancer.

New Web Site



Cambriacsd.org

Within the next two months, the CCSD will "go live" with a new web site. Agendas and minutes will be posted on the site as well as information from each of the District's divisions. Cambriacsd.org is designed to provide more detailed information to the community and allow for quick updates on pertinent issues.

PROS Corner

PARK TOP PRIORITY

Development of a community park on the East Ranch is PROS number one priority for 2002/2003. The CCSD Board recently approved funding to begin developing a master plan for the property. Initially, the park will focus on providing athletic fields and a community center. Eventual construction of the park will be dependent on funding from various grant sources.

PROS also continues to oversee development of an historic park along Center Street, including coordination of the Guthrie Bianchini House and Warren Home renovations, creation of a walking path along the GreenSpace riparian area, removal of the CCSD building on Bridge Street, and improvement of parking and lighting in the area.

MORE FERN CANYON SPACE

The PROS Open Space Committee is working closely with the Land Conservancy of San Luis Obispo County (LCSLOC) to transfer 200 retired lots (approximately 10 acres) to the CCSD along Fern Canyon. The land will continue as open space under District ownership. Public access has not been determined as yet. The LCSLOC will hold the conservation easement to the property.

TRAILS AND BIRDING BROCHURE

PROS recently published a trails brochure identifying various Cambria trails that are open to the public and a bird-watching brochure. Free copies of both are available at the Chamber of Commerce, Cambria Library, CCSD, and Rumpelstiltskin book store.



RECREATION UPDATE

The Cambria Youth Center recently changed its name to the Community Center of Cambria, reflecting its emphasis on providing a broader range of activities, classes and services to all age groups in the community. PROS works closely with the Community Center in planning recreational services and facilities.

Due to the lack of athletic fields and other recreational space in Cambria, PROS is pursuing a Joint Use Agreement between CCSD and Coast Union High School to allow the community to use selected school facilities including baseball diamonds, basketball and tennis courts.

SANTA ROSA CREEK

On June 27, the CCSD Board approved a collaboration between PROS and the Land Conservancy of San Luis Obispo County (LCSLOC) to begin weed reduction around Santa Rosa Creek on the East Ranch. The creek area is overgrown with brooms, milk thistle, cape ivy and other exotics. The work will be handled by volunteers from LCSLOC, the Cambria Land Conservancy and other community volunteers. For more information, please call John Colgan at 927-5285

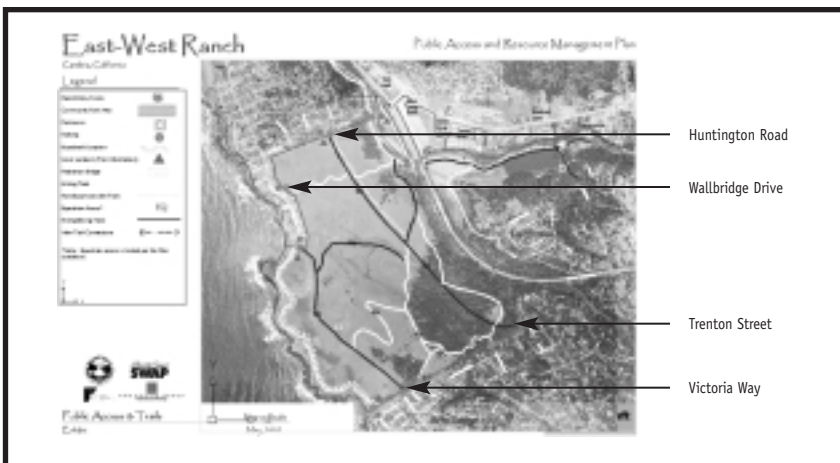
Trails & Open Space



* RANCH TRAILS OPENED

Previously off-limit trails on the East-West Ranch were opened for pedestrian trial use in July, to help the CCSD determine if people and cattle can successfully coexist. The East-West Ranch working group made the decision following input to the draft management plan at the June 12 community forum. The move is part of a pilot project to help the CCSD understand which future activities and policies will work prior to handing over the management reins to North Coast SWAP next year. Access gates and signs at Huntington Road, Trenton Street, Victoria Way and Wallbridge Drive are now open for pedestrian use. Until further notice, dogs must be kept on a leash.

Copies of the draft management plan are available online at northcoastswap.org. They can also be reviewed at the Cambria Library, 900 Main Street; the CCSD offices at 1316 Tamson Drive; and the CCSD fire station at 2850 Burton Drive.



* CROSS TOWN TRAIL DELAYED

The District has been working with its Sacramento lobbyist to obtain an extension to a \$200,000 CalTrans administered grant for construction of the Cross Town Trail. The project was to be funded through two CalTrans administered grants, the County and an Air Pollution Control District grant. One of the CalTrans grants (EEM) required completion of the entire project by June 30, 2002. This was not possible due to ongoing design of the overlapping County Flood Control project and other limitations. Senator Jack O'Connell and Assemblyman Abel Maldonado assisted in the District's extension request. A bill to extend the grant will be voted on in early August.

* DISTRICT UP FOR RIPARIAN GRANT

The CCSD may receive up to \$400,000 in grant funding to restore the habitat and water quality of Santa Rosa Creek while also developing a riparian trail system. The proposed trail, which would include benches and educational signage, would parallel Santa Rosa Creek and eventually link into the future Cross Town Trail. On June 26, representatives from the California Department of Parks and Recreation made a site visit to Santa Rosa Creek to determine the project's eligibility under Proposition 12, the Safe Neighborhood Parks, Clean Water, Clean Air, and Coastal Protection Bond Act of 2000. The grant award decision will be made within the next few months.

Posted Notes

HIPPOCRATES ON WASTEWATER

Roger Wrobel, an operator at the CCSD Wastewater Treatment Plant, wants the public to have a better understanding of sewage treatment methods. He has developed an entertaining and often humorous slide show tracing the history of sewage systems back 12,000 years. His presentation has been enthusiastically received by area schools and other water and wastewater entities.



He says that some of the systems employed were well designed while others most certainly shortened people's lives. His research reveals that 200 years ago London and Paris were engulfed in their sewage while the ancient Greeks had a collection system resembling today's sophisticated systems. According to Roger, a number of illustrious historical figures addressed wastewater management including Moses, Hippocrates, Henry VIII, and Florence Nightingale.

If you would like to know more about this subject or schedule a presentation for you or your organization, please call Roger at 927-6250.

TRASH QUESTIONS?

If you have questions about trash and recycling, please call Mission Country Disposal at 927-4995 or 528-7430.



You should receive a call back within 24 hours of leaving a message.

ARTISTS WANTED

Since November, the CCSD has been displaying the work of local artists in its lobby. To date, landscape artist Bill Strasen, ceramist Teresa Campbell and CCSD employee Richard Fishback have displayed their distinctive works of art. If you would like to exhibit your art in the District's lobby, please contact Connie Davidson at 927-6222.





FAQs

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS



The CCSD has received many questions about Cambria's water shortage situation. Following are some FAQs that should be helpful in understanding this complex issue.

* WATER MORATORIUM

When Was The Water Moratorium Approved?

- The CCSD Board of Directors voted to implement a water shortage emergency on November 15, 2001.

Why Was The Moratorium Implemented?

- Cambria has insufficient water for projected growth, fire protection and drought conditions.
- Water conservation measures have been in place for decades and will yield minimal future water savings beyond what has already been accomplished.
- The CCSD Board of Directors placed a hold on any future water demands until an additional water source(s) can be identified.

When Will The Moratorium Be Lifted?

- When the Water Master Plan is completed and viable alternate water sources are identified that will provide adequate long-term water for fire and drought protection.

* WATER MASTER PLAN

What Is the Purpose of a Water Master Plan?

- It will evaluate how much water the District has, how much it will need and where it will come from.
- It will explore a variety of water sources including recycled water for landscape irrigation.
- It will recommend improvements to piping and storage tanks to improve firefighting capabilities.
- The State requires districts to have a Water Master Plan.

When Will The Water Master Plan Be Completed?

- Approximately March 2003

When Will Intent To Serve Letters Be Issued Again?

- After the Water Master Plan is approved, Board will determine if and how many intent to serve letters will be issued each year.

* WATER WAIT LIST

What Is The CCSD Wait List?

- The CCSD waiting list consists of applicants with deposits for new water and sewer connections.
- The list was established in February 1986 and closed at the end of 1990 when it had grown to more than 1,300 single-family projects and over 100 multi-family projects.
- The list was closed in cooperation with the County's Growth Management Ordinance.
- There are currently 670 single-family and 24 multi-family projects on the list.

What Is The Difference Between "CCSD" And "County" Wait Lists?

- The County list is for building permit applications only, not water service.
- A building permit application will not be processed until the CCSD has approved water service for a project.

How Do You Get On The Water List?

- The water list was closed to new applications on December 31, 1990. The only way to acquire a position is to purchase an existing one.
- The process of buying an existing water position is known as "assignment."
- Positions may be transferred from one property to another under limited conditions, including size, location and ownership.

HOW TO BE WATER WISE
AND FIRE SAFE

Inside...



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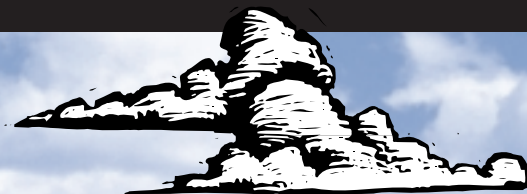
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CCSD *news*



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* MEETING DATES

CCSD Board meetings are normally held at Vets Hall the third Thursday of each month at 12:30 p.m. Dates for the balance of 2002 are as follows:

- August 22
- September 26
- October 24
- November 21
- December 19



* LONGER HOURS

The CCSD is now open to the public from **9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.**, Monday through Friday. The hours were shortened last year when several staff members resigned, creating a major backlog in the District's workload. Payments can also be made by check at the Cambria Village Pharmacy located at 2306 Main Street.

* MEETINGS TELEVISED

CCSD Board meetings can be viewed on Channel 21 for the first two weeks following each meeting. The broadcast schedule for each week is as follows:



- FRIDAY: 6:00 P.M.
- SATURDAY: 9:00 A.M.
- MONDAY: 6:00 P.M.
- THURSDAY: 9:00 A.M.



IMPORTANT NEWS ON WATER, FIRE, AND MORE...

