

to the Point

News from the Pedro Point Community Association

November 2011

FIREHOUSE NEWS

The leak in the Firehouse roof has been fixed thanks to Frank Lazari. The repair just needs to be primed and painted. Frank will prime it and we could paint it at the next work party. The Firehouse work parties have been fun gatherings. We even have a volunteer who comes from Man- or to help us out! After the last Firehouse work party several of the volunteers requested that we hold the work



parties on a regular basis. The next work party is scheduled for **Saturday, November 19th starting at 10:00 am.** There are a lot of small jobs that need to be done that require minimal skill, but a willingness to get the job done. And it always feels great to see our Firehouse looking a little bit better. Contact me at 359-3263 or warnella@hotmail.com to let me know if you can join us in improving our Firehouse.

- Danny Estrella

The next PPCA potluck is Friday, November 18th at 6:30 pm.

Good food, good conversation --come meet your neighbors-- get involved in your community--no charge. Please bring something to share. If your last name begins with the letter below, please bring the following item:

A- H: appetizer or side dish

I - R: main dish

S - Z: dessert

Wine, beer, water and coffee will be available. - Marcia

MADRIGALLI MARKET RETURNS

Our fifth annual Madrigalli Holiday Crafts Market is coming the evening of Friday December 2nd, and all day Saturday the 3rd. This is the perfect venue to start your holiday shopping, while supporting the rebuilding of our community playground. The Firehouse will be transformed into an artisan collective, with works ranging from jewelry and ceramics, to paintings, clothing, and even some yummy holiday treats!

The proceeds from the event will go towards the rebuilding of the Firehouse's community playground. We encourage donations of baked goods to be sold at the Playground bakesale table, and are grateful for cash contributions as well. Wrapped, baked goods can be brought to the Firehouse on Friday afternoon. For more info check out the Firehouse website at pedropoint.org, or call 650-355-4726.

We look forward to seeing you at the market!

- Camille Keating

Cut Your Own "Charlie Brown Perfect" Holiday Tree—In Pacifica!



On Sunday, November 27th from 10 am to 2 pm the Pacifica Land Trust and Pedro Point Community Association will be hosting a "Get Your Charlie Brown Christmas Tree" stewardship event to remove spreading Monterey pines from the shrublands on the Pedro Point Headlands. By removing the invasive trees we strengthen the overall health of this wonderful ecosystem. All Monterey Pine groves will be left intact for potential wildlife and bird habitat.

So come and get your Holiday tree or help us with the event! Please meet in the Castle Kitchen parking lot (next to Pedro Point Ace Hardware) between 10:00 and 2:00pm and travel to the Headlands. Trucks will transport the trees back to the signup location. Many of the trees are on the Middle Ridge or even near the ocean bluff so please bring help to carry it down to the loading area. We'll have help available but can't guarantee enough for everyone.

Donations to the Pacifica Land Trust will be much appreciated. These trees will be of varying shapes and sizes, many of the large variety—all guaranteed natural and free-range. The views are spectacular and the community spirit the best. What's not to like?

Happy Holiday, and hope to see you on November 27th. - Lynn Adams

DONATIONS TO THE FIREHOUSE PLAYGROUND FUND ARE NOW TAX DEDUCTIBLE

The Pedro Point Parents Group (PPPG) has formalized an agreement with Pacificans Care that allows donations, directed to rebuilding the Firehouse playground, to be tax deductible. Much thanks to Tony Brockman and Jennifer Hoover who worked with Bruce Banco, president of Pacificans Care, to make this happen. The current structure is over 18 years old and needs to be replaced. There are more children on the Point now and there is a need to provide a safe playground for them. The PPPG has been researching design and materials options for rebuilding the playground. This project was started a few years ago by Camille Keating and she has raised a few thousand dollars but it's going to take over 20 thousand dollars to complete this project. Camille has the commitment of some local contractors to provide materials, machinery and expertise to help with this project. If you're looking for a way to make a tax deductible donation for this year and would like to support a project that enhances the Pedro Point community then please consider this project. You can contact me or Bruce, PPCA treasurer, at bferry@dzphillips.com, to arrange this.

- with Gratitude and Hope, Danny



President's Message

I love this time of year when the angle of light gets lower, the days get a little cooler and the leaves fall (from some trees anyway). Gathering with friends changes from outdoor BBQs to indoor intimate dinners. It's a time to look back over what was, or wasn't, accomplished over the summer months and prepare for the holidays of fall and winter. What the PPCA accomplished was hosting the third annual Chili Cook Off, held a dance for the children of the Point, presented Bryan Kingston's documentary film on the last days of the Bay Meadows racetrack and made progress in sprucing up the Firehouse. The Cook Off was again a big success; so many great chilies, so little room in the stomach... Our Firehouse is a comfortable, intimate theater now with the acoustic treatment and the light-blocking window treatments thanks to Jessica Anthony. We even have a bar and VIP seating on the stage. Following the showing of Bryan's film we were so enthused by this that we're planning to host films on a monthly basis. A small work party trimmed the bottle brush and cleaned up the storage spaces at the Firehouse. A small dracaena was planted at the corner of Danmann and Kent that promises to dress up that corner. It's been wonderful how the inclusion of the children in our community events has added richness to our lives. All of these happenings are threads in the social fabric of our community. A fabric that cloaks us all whether we know it or not.

We use a commercial emailing list, 'Mail Chimp' to send out our newsletters and occasional announcements. The service does not reveal the recipients' email address so your privacy is protected. We do not share, lease or sell your email address. It is only used for PPCA purposes. There are several benefits to being included on our emailing list: 1) You receive the newsletter by email in color (and it really looks great in color), 2) you save the PPCA the cost of printing and mailing the newsletter (this is not trivial), 3) you are kept informed of community issues that arise between releases of the newsletter (for example, the Pacifica city council meeting of October 10 which addressed the zoning change of the Calson property as part of the Pacifica General Plan Update). I encourage you to provide us with your email address to be added to our 'Mail Chimp' distribution list. You can send your address to any of the Board members listed in the newsletter.

- Danny Estrella

PPCA MINUTES, JULY 21ST, 2011

PPCA MINUTES for JULY 21, 2011

Meeting called to order at 7:45

Present: Estrella, Settel, Ferry, Casillas, Martin, Holler, Hitz

Absent: Jaquith, Clark

1. Minutes of last meeting and treasurer's report approved.
2. Pacifica Parents Group reported on progress towards new playground. Their goal is to raise \$15,000 and to build next year.
3. The Firehouse Manager also reported that neither the city nor Recology will take responsibility for emptying the trash can outside the Firehouse. Councilman Jim Vreeland said he would talk to Recology about the situation.
4. Jim also reported that the San Mateo Transportation Authority had authorized \$360,000 in funds from Measure A for securing property to develop Headlands trail access. This had been matched by a promise of \$250,000 from the Coastal Conservancy. Money is still needed for construction of trails and the trails must be built before the transfer to GGNRA can be completed. The current plan is to build a disability-accessible trail east of Ace Hardware. Negotiations are continuing with property owners to allow that to happen. Discussion are also going on with Caltrans in an attempt to get the property in front of Fresh and Easy to be some kind of trailhead, with tables or an information kiosk. The idea is to build a continuous trail to Montara.
5. The major discussion of the evening was the draft Pacifica General Plan which contains a re-zoning of the Calson property to allow for medium and high density residential multifamily housing with a park. There was general agreement that this was not what we at the meeting want to have happen with the property. The public comment period on the plan is open until August 12th and it was the sentiment of the meeting that the community should respond with its recommendations for the zoning for that property. A meeting was scheduled for July 26th to develop a responsive statement which would then be sent out to the community for e-mail comment.
6. Upcoming events were discussed, including the Chili Feed, the movie "Last Train from Bay Meadows", the Fog Fest, and a possible Moveable Feast at the end of October or beginning of November.
7. New Business at the meeting was mention of the need for restricted parking at the firehouse in order to allow for trucks to load/unload for events.
8. Meeting adjourned at 9:10.

- Respectfully submitted, Marcia Settel

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NOMINATION TO THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE PPCA

It's time to elect a new Board of Directors for the PPCA. Being on the Board is an opportunity to discuss and take action on the important issues that affect our community. It can also be a nice addition to your career resume as some prospective employers look for a track record of community involvement. It can be a lot of fun as it has been for me. It doesn't require much of your time as most meetings take place as part of the quarterly general meetings. But we'd like to have people who

can participate and become involved with the discussions. As each of us has a particular experience and viewpoint we each have a valuable contribution to make to the discussions that may affect the future of our community. Take a look at the PPCA bylaws posted on the PPCA website (pedropoint.org) to see how our organizational structure is set up and how decisions are made. Contact one of the current Board members if you're interested so that you can be included in the next Board election.

- Danny Estrella

PPCA QUARTERLY MEETING AGENDA

THURSDAY 17 NOVEMBER 2010
7:30 PM

- Election of PPCA Board Members
- Pacifica General Plan Update and the Pedro Point Field
- Parents Group
 - Firehouse Playground Fund
 - Holiday Events
- Events Committee
 - Madrigalli Market
 - Firehouse Film Series
 - Potluck, Progressive Dinner
 - Talent Show
- Firehouse Committee Update
 - Next work party is Nov. 19th, 10 am
- Headlands Update
- Neighborhood Watch/Safety
- PPCA Logo
- Walk-in new business

Golden Gate National Recreation Area Open House in Pacifica

Voice your opinion for how the Golden Gate National Recreation Area (GGNRA) park lands should be managed! Do you know that over 50% of property within Pacifica is open space and much of it is managed by GGNRA?

Also, the GGNRA is planning to include the Pedro Point Headlands into their system. The GGNRA is considering many options for the park lands within Pacifica. Do you want camp sites? Do you want to walk your dog there? Whatever you believe is best, GGNRA needs to hear from you!

When: November 15, 2011

Drop in anytime 4:30-6:30 pm

Where: Pacifica Community Center
540 Crespi Drive

Relevant Topics to be Discussed:

- General Management Plan
- Highway 1 Safety and Mobility Improvement Study
- Phase 2 (South of Devil's Slide) - Sam

PPCA Logo Design

The PPCA needs a logo for our promotional materials, banners, letter-head, etc. I know that there are some talented artists on the Point. We need an image that represents our community. It may need to be as simple as a pen sketch to work with letter head.

My first thought would be that the image include a profile of the rocks at the Point and the profile of the Firehouse, and include *Pedro Point Community Association* or *PPCA*. If you come up with any ideas let me know.

- Danny

Keep Our Streets Safe: Turn on a Light!

Parts of The Point are very dark at night due to the lack of street lights and trees. If the neighborhood were brighter, perhaps we can help deter break-ins. Below are a few other tips to help make our neighborhood safer.

- Please Report any suspicious activity to the Pacifica Police Department by calling 650-738-7314, or 911 in an emergency.
- Know your neighbors, and exchange contact names and phone numbers. If you notice something or someone suspicious, you can notify them before involving the police.
- If there is sufficient interest, we may consider re-starting a Neighborhood Watch program in Pedro Point in conjunction with the Police Department.

- Jeannene Minnix Kingston

PACIFICA GENERAL PLAN UPDATE FOR THE PEDRO POINT AREA

Over the past year the city of Pacifica has contracted with a team of consultants who have held public meetings to gather input on a plan for development in the city. The General Plan Update (GPU, http://www.cityofpacifica.org/depts/planning/general_plan_update_project/default.asp) includes comments for the Pedro Point community, specifically the property located along San Pedro Ave roughly between Danmann and Grand. The property encompasses approximately five acres. The property was purchased by Ron Calson 15 years ago. At that time it was zoned commercial. Mr. Calson has not presented any plans for development of this property.

Within the GPU the consultants proposed several possible developments for the field including A) Commercial/Residential, B) Hotel/Commercial/Mixed-Use/Residential or C) Hotel/Mixed-Use. The City Council rejected the idea of all the above, but said they may consider very low density residential. Several council members were in favor of the proposed new alternative of Commercial-recreational. Mr. Calson has made it known that he has rejected the commercial, hotel, mixed use and high density residential, but is actively proposing re-zoning as Residential. Recently a committee from the Pedro Point community gathered to discuss what alternatives could be for this property considering the impacts of residential development and the interests of the Pedro Point residents. Discussion included the results of a survey conducted in the Pedro Point community and current considerations of population density, traffic flow and demographics. An important question raised is: what zoning makes sense for Pacifica's long-term economic stability and the integrity of the neighborhood – which means should it remain “commercial”, or a modified version of “commercial” (commercial-recreational) or a different land use (residential, open space)? The position made by the PPCA in a letter to city council submitted for the August 12 council meeting stated: PPCA strongly opposes any re-zoning of this site as Residential, Hotel or Mixed-Use. The “Commercial-Recreation” zoning subclass proposed in the GPU update ensures a reasonable economic use of the field by private owners, while retaining some of its open space public benefits, such as flood detention capacity. Some examples of development under the Commercial/Recreation zoning include:

- bike rental, kayak rental, beach equipment rentals
- horseback riding
- pony ride/kids play park (like Lemos Farm in Half Moon Bay)
- expansion of outdoor social event space (to complement the firehouse) ie: Gazebos and decking for receptions & picnics
- Local exotic plant nursery & gardens
- Carousel & playground
- outdoor event space for beach festivals, surf competitions etc. (to complement the PPCA Firehouse)

The field is a lowland: all street runoff from the hillslopes drains to it, which is why it acts as a flood basin during rainstorms...a sponge for all the surrounding residential areas that hosts numerous snakes, frogs, and birds. It is a non-tidal wetlands area as designated by the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service (USF&WS). Adjacent properties may be placed at increased flood risk if more impervious surfaces are added, and flood detention capacity is removed. Backwater flooding at the mouth of San Pedro Creek during extreme high tides and flood peaks makes the flood basin very important as a safety valve for all neighbors bordering the field. Regarding Flooding/run-off: Any significant increase in impervious surface area in the field – rooftops, driveways, roads – will add to runoff, and reduce the area runoff & rainfall may spread out during storms (flood detention capacity). On Monday October 10, 2011 the Pacifica city council discussed the rezoning of the Calson property. Many Pedro Point residents attended this meeting and several expressed their opinions about rezoning of this property. Councilmember Jim Vreeland recommended to table the vote until the Council, the Planning Commission, and representatives from Pedro Point could meet further.

This issue will be on the agenda for the next PPCA general meeting.

- Danny Estrella

A FRESH AND EASY WAY TO HELP PACIFICA SCHOOLS

Fresh and Easy will pay our local schools \$1.00 for every \$20.00 of receipts turned in from now until December 31st. The receipt must total at least \$20.00 to qualify for this program. If you shop at Fresh and Easy, this is an easy way to make money for our local schools. Please save your receipts and bring them to the next meeting, or give them to a neighbor with kids in a Pacifica school - they can bring them in.

Any questions email Barbara Keating at keatingreiker@hotmail.com.

Thanks, Barbara Keating

Big Changes at the Headlands



If you have walked the Pedro Point Headlands recently you have probably notice a few more changes:

- Pampas Grass and French Broom which used to be so prevalent last year is mostly gone? Happily, due to the restoration team (including many PPCA members) with the help of Go Native (on the huge Pampas Grass), most of these invasive species have been found and removed. Constant vigilance is still needed to keep the new seedlings from developing but in most places, these species on the headlands have been eradicated.
- Water bars (angular ditches to divert water runoff from the trails) were installed last winter because of the heavy rainfall. We may install more and clean out some of the existing ones to further reduce erosion through this coming rainy season,
- Old slide on the south side of the trail from the green gate is devoid of trees and pampas grass and budding with red flags marking new native plants. We'll probably remove the flags this winter.
- Native plants are growing in the greenhouse for the new slide (December - 2010) . We plan to plant this area this winter.
- The green gate is no longer accessible due to Cal Trans installing an additional lane for two bus stops just north of the bridge entrance. Work is expected to go through October 15th. We will be making arrangements to have access to the headlands for our workdays.

If you would like to join us as we continue our restoration efforts on the headlands, please mark your calendar for our Charlie Brown Christmas Tree/garland/wreath event for Sunday November 27th.

No workdays in December but two in January (8th and 29th.) Whether you prefer to remove unwanted invasive plants that threaten the native species, tend the newly planted seedlings, clear water bars, or collect mature seeds for the eroded slopes we can use your help. There is a lot to be done on the headlands and it is quite fun working together to do it. Collectively we learn and teach each other about the plants, birds, and natural history and have a lot of fun. Please do join us if you can and bring the kids!

Please meet us at the Pedro Point Firehouse (Dannmann road) at 9:45 am. We will load up the cars with tools and carpool to the headlands. If you have any questions or to RSVP for large groups, please call 415-309-5856. Otherwise, simply bring your friends and family and be prepared to have fun! Please wear long sleeves, long pants and sturdy shoes. Bring reusable water bottle and gloves if you have them.

This restoration work is directed by the Pacifica Land Trust, funded by the Coastal Conservancy and supported by the Pedro Point Community Association. Want to get the Pedro Point Headland news and work date announcements? Please contact Lynn at lynn4promos@aol.com to be added to the e-list.
- Lynn Adams

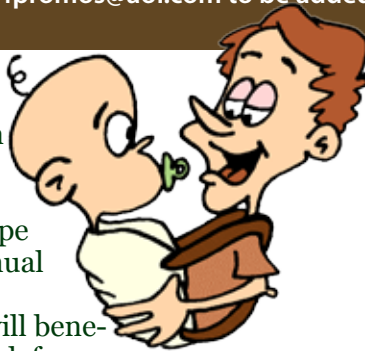
Pedro Point Parents Group

Welcome to the new babies born on the Point and our new families who joined PPPG. Our recent Halloween carnival was a great night and we hope to do it again, in the spirit of our annual Easter egg hunt, next year.

Thanks for all the donations that will benefit our growing playground fund. Look for our next upcoming fundraiser, the Madrigalli Market December 2nd and 3rd and information on a PPPG holiday get together scheduled for Friday, December 16th.

On the playground front, we are excited about our recent partnership with Pacificans Care who has agreed to become our fiscal sponsor for this playground project. Since Pacificans Care is a registered 501(c)3, not only will all of our donations be tax deductible, but for those of you who are lucky enough to have corporate donation matching programs it's a way to double your contributions.

As soon as the details are finalized I will release the website we have been promising so you can read about our plans and take advantage of both 2010 and 2011 tax benefits. Pacificans Care was instrumental in the Frontierland Friendship Playground



fundraising and will really help with our fundraising as well.

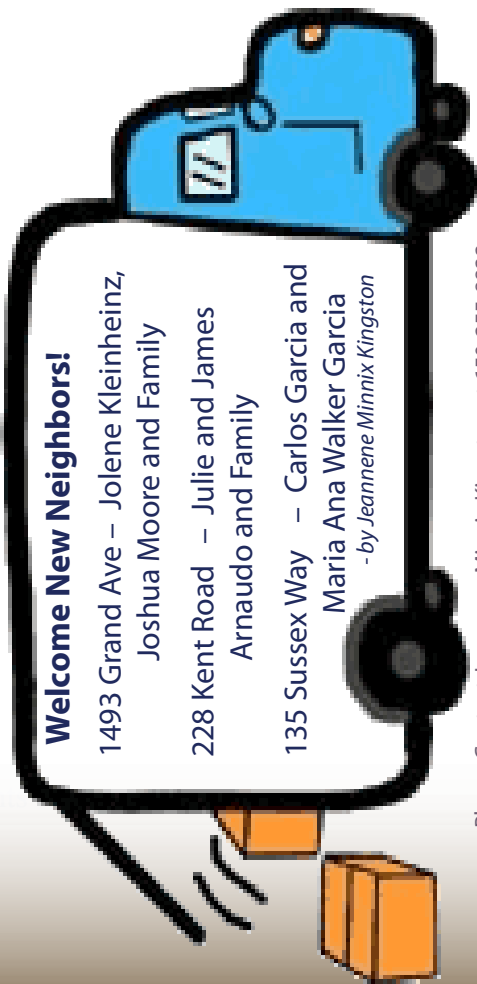
To learn more about Pacificans Care you can visit their website at www.pacificans-care.org The playground will be a community gathering spot benefiting the whole neighborhood, so we're eager to maintain the project momentum! To be added to the PPPG's private email list, email me at simplygraphic@comcast.net. See you around the neighborhood!- Jenn Hoover

Talent Show Anyone?

There are so many of us on the Point who have a developed performing arts talent whether it's playing a musical instrument, singing, dancing, performing magic tricks or telling a story or joke. Why, I myself play a few instruments and sing. Some of you have seen me perform at some of our events. So I'm producing a talent show to be held at the Firehouse. Come on out and grace us with your talents. Contact me so I can include you in the fun.
- Danny Estrella

Save the Date!

The progressive dinner returns March 24, 2012. To host, contact Marcia at GilSet1158@gmail.com



Please Contact Jeannene Minnix Kingston at 650-255-8833 or
 jiminnix@yahoo.com if you know of any new neighbors to be welcomed to the Point!



Page	Start Time	Event
1	Tues. Nov. 15, 4:30 pm	GNRA Open House
3	Th. Nov. 17, 7:30 pm	PPCA Meeting
1	Fri. Nov. 18, 6:30 pm	PPCA Potluck
1	Sat. Nov. 19, 10 am	Firehouse Work Party
1	Nov. 27, 10 am	Charlie Brown Tree
1	Dec. 2-3	Madrigall Market
5	Fri., Dec. 16th	Parents Group Gathering
5	Sun. Jan 8, 10 am	Headlands Cleanup
5	Sun. Jan 29, 10 am	Headlands Cleanup
5	Sat. Mar. 29, 10 am	Progressive Dinner

Pedro Point Community Association
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