

PEDRO POINT COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION

TO THE POINT

JANUARY 2011

Slide on Pedro Point closes Hwy 1

Highway 1 was briefly closed on Wednesday December 29th due to a land slide from the Pedro Point Headlands. According to CalTrans workers on the job, approximately 50 yards of soil flowed onto the highway and at one point 300 gallons of water per minute was sheeting across the roadway. Caltrans quickly closed the road, removed the debris and allowed the backed up water to re-lease. Highway 1 was reopened by 5:55am in time for the morning commute.

The slide originated on CA Coastal Conservancy property inside the green gate off Hwy 1 (before the bridge to the tunnel) on the main trail just past the area planted on Earth Day. On New Years Eve representatives from the Pacifica Land Trust, CA Coastal Commission and Cal Trans assessed the slide area to devise a plan to minimize the water flowing down the slide area. On New Years Day, a crew from Go Native, Inc built a main water bar at the entrance to the staging/parking area above the green gate. They then went up the road and built, repaired and/or opened three more water bars on the road to remove as much water as possible from reaching the parking lot which feeds into and may have caused the slide.

Go Native also trenched and installed straw wattles to keep any surface water from impacting the slide area. They opened up the water bar downhill from the slide to help move the water off the trail at a safe place. On the way out they cut a trench to help drain the big pool of water at the green entry gate. Since then a CalTran hydrologist came out to further assess the slide and its potential to drop more soil onto Hwy 1.

For more, see Slide, page 5



President's Message by Danny Estrella

Greetings to all in this New Year, 2011. Looking back over 2010 we, as a community, really came together in ways that were rewarding, constructive and over all a lot of fun: bi-monthly pot luck dinners, the Firehouse Film Series, watching the fireworks from the deck at the Firehouse on July 4th, the Chili Cook-Off, restoring the habitat on the Pedro Point Headlands, the progressive dinner, the Seafood Chioppino and beginning the Map Your Neighborhood program. We'll be doing all these and more this year. Breck and I started mapping the neighborhood and the work continues. We're creating cells of 6 to 10 homes. We'll be looking for neighbors to act as marshals for each cell. Marshals will coordinate the neighbors in their cell to identify the residents and their particular needs in the event of an emergency or natural disaster. Ideally, marshals will be persons who have experience and/or training in first responder situations, such as firefighters, police and medical care workers. But anyone willing and interested in ensuring the well being of his or her neighbors during a crisis are welcome. If that's you please contact Breck Hitz

or me.

It's time for election of the PPCA Board of Directors. At the time of this writing we have 11 nominees. In conjunction with this the current Board is deciding how many Board members will serve. With 10 of 12 members having casted their votes the number of Board members with the most votes is 12. This decision will be finalized on December 31, 2010. If there are fewer Board candidates then the number of board members required then there will not be an election and all candidates will serve as board members.

As a reminder, the PPCA newsletters are now posted on the PPCA webpage (pedropoint.org). Some PPCA members now receive their newsletter via email. Electronic distribution of the newsletter saves the PPCA a lot of money. Also, if you get the newsletter electronically you get to see it in color. Cherie has been creating the newsletters in eye-popping color and they look great. If you're not receiving the newsletter by email and would like to please let me know. - Danny Estrella



PPCA MINUTES OCTOBER 14, 2010

Meeting called to order at 7:35 by President Danny Estrella

Board of Directors Attending: Danny Estrella, president; Jose Barba, Vice-president; Bruce Ferry, Treasurer; Arno Rohloff, Greg Hirsch, Linda Holler, Robin Jaquith, Sam Casillas

Previous meeting minutes approved: YES

FINANCING CITY SERVICES TASK FORCE REPORT. Pacifica City Manager Steve Rhodes presented the City of Pacifica "Financing City Services Task Force Report - 3/19/10". The report illuminated the financial crisis the City of Pacifica is facing as a result of the downturn in the economy. City reserves will be completely depleted under the "status quo" by fiscal year 2011/2012. Three options (A, B, C) were shown in the Task Force report to keep the reserves from being completely depleted. The options are five year strategies, of which option A was the one selected by the City Council to implement. Option A calls for a partial reduction in services combined with tax increases to the Tenant Occupancy Tax (TOT, or hotel tax), Public Safety Assessment (parcel tax on property), and a revised Utility User Tax (UUT, tax on gas, electric and telecommunications).

MAP YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD. Emergency coordinator Mike Blagrove presented the Map Your Neighborhood (MYN) program, which is an offshoot of the Community Emergency Response Training (CERT) program. Map Your Neighborhood is a pilot program which helps neighborhoods, in the event of an emergency, to know such things as: which neighbors might need special assistance in an emergency; where are natural gas shut-offs on your neighbors homes; and other useful information.

NOMINATIONS FOR 2011 PPCA BOARD OF DIRECTORS. President Danny Estrella informed everyone that nomination forms were sent out with the September newsletter. Nominations are due by November 15. In an effort to reduce the amount of paper the PPCA uses, Danny made a motion which was approved (8 yes, 0 no) that ballots could be accepted by email as well as paper. In addition, Danny is exploring moving the election process to an electronic format via electronic balloting using such online websites as Survey Monkey and Zoomerang. Danny also added that the newsletters are in electronic format and available on the PPCA website at www.pedropoint.org.

COMMITTEE REPORTS. Danny Estrella gave a brief summary of the Events committee and Firehouse committee. Events Committee: Events are posted on the PPCA website. Several events are coming up soon: Firehouse Film Series - Idiosyncrasies (10/15/10, 7pm) and Slow the Flow (date TBD); Moveable Feast (11/6/10 7pm); Children's Holiday Puppet Show (12/17/10). Firehouse Committee: Frank Lazzari reported that he is ready to start work on a number of projects (roof leak repair, support frame reinforcement) and was approved by the board to begin work. He also has been able to have some materials donated by Ace Hardware.

**FIREHOUSE MAINTENANCE COMMITTEE REPORT**

Firehouse maintenance has been on hiatus this past fall. Our jobs and personal demands and the onset of rains have prevented continuing the maintenance work that's needed: fixing the leak in the roof, bracing the supporting framework under the hall floor and addressing some other maintenance issues. I'm still seeking recommendations for a good contractor to refinish the hall floor. Please contact me if you know of someone.

- Danny Estrella

Floor Refinishing is still in need of a contractor bid to do the work.

PPCA TO PROVIDE REFRESHMENTS FOR PEDRO POINT HEADLANDS WORK CREWS. Samuel Casillas presented a proposal regarding providing refreshments for Pedro Point Headlands work crews. Currently the work crews (all volunteers) that work up on the Pedro Point Headlands either provide their own refreshments or they are provided by Lynn Adams, coordinator of the work crews. The work is being done under a government agency grant that does not allow reimbursement for refreshments. Since the PPCA is in partnership with the Pacifica Land Trust to do this work, and the refreshments cannot be paid for under the grant, it was proposed that the PPCA help pay for the refreshments. The cost of refreshments is roughly \$25 per volunteer workday, of which there is one workday per month. So the projected annual expenditure to the PPCA would be roughly \$300. Treasurer Bruce Ferry added that the amount was affordable and within the annual PPCA budget. Motion was made and approved for the PPCA to provide refreshments for the Pedro Point Headlands work crews (7 yes, 1 abstain).

ILLEGAL IN-LAW UNITS ON PEDRO POINT. Sam Casillas informed the meeting that the rate of illegal in-law units in Pedro Point is on the rise (an illegal in-law unit is a separate room or rooms attached to a single family residence that when built, does not initially have a kitchen, but later a kitchen is added in order to rent out the room(s). A permit is never obtained for the kitchen, this making it illegal.) Rental of illegal in-law units increases the population in the neighborhood thus affecting parking and traffic and makes the neighborhood more transient (tenants are more likely to move than homeowners). Discussion ensued about what should be or could be done. It was resolved that Sam would form an action group to present something to the City of Pacifica Planning Committee.

PRESENTATION BY LEO LEON. Sam Casillas introduced Leo Leon who was invited to speak on the illegal in-law unit issue. Leo served on the Planning Committee and has served the community of Pacifica and Montara for many years as Post Master of Montara and outspoken member of the Pacifica community. Leo, who is currently running for the City of Pacifica City Council, took the opportunity to inform the meeting about his experience in the community and how he would make Pacifica better. As Leo talked about his service on the planning committee and how the most recent construction project on the corner of Kent and Essex was approved by the committee. A vigorous discussion ensued, and Leo was soon asked to end his presentation. Leo left the meeting with head high and the meeting breathed a sigh of relief.

That being the end of all items on the agenda, the meeting was duly adjourned.

- Bruce Ferry

THE MAGICAL MADRIGALLI MARKET

On December 3 and 4th the Firehouse transformed into a collective fair of local artisans, crafters, potters, and holiday shoppers, for the 3rd annual "Madrigalli Market". This year, the fair started on Friday evening, with live music from our extraordinary local guitarist, Mark Sessler, along with complimentary wine tasting from Rockaway Beach treasure, "A Grape in the Fog" The vibe was festive, and well attended, with many eager holiday shoppers buying unique, handmade local gifts.

Saturday hosted nice weather, tasty treats by Pedro Point Creative's Gheeva Chung, and a bakesale of goodies being sold to raise money for our Firehouse Playground.

The whole affair has been going on for 3 years at the Firehouse, as a Playground Fundraiser, and has been successful in its mission, this year bringing in just under \$1200 for the Playground Fund. With plans moving forward to erect a new structure before 2012, the Playground fund is in need of support from all avenues. Since it is open to the public, and used widely by so many children and families on the point, we urge fellow neighbors to consider donating towards rebuilding our dilapidated structure. We have just hit the 25% mark of what will be needed for the completion of the playground, so future fundraising is definitely in the works.

Anyone who would like to donate, please send contributions to PPCA,-Playground fund, and your generosity will truly be appreciated.

A big thank you is in order to Pedro Point resident, Janine Galligani, and good friend Michelle Madrid for spearheading such a soulful event; as well as all the local vendors for sharing their craft, Mark Sessler for his musical ambience, Pedro neighbors, Jen, Sam, Jessica, and Bruce for helping me with the PPCA bakesale, and all who attended the event.

Next years plans are already being formed to incorporate a grander affair, with the same welcoming holiday feel we have come to know from the Madrid- Galligani duo know as "Madrigalli" *-Camille Keating*

PARENTS GROUP CELEBRATES ONE YEAR

Happy New Year. The Pedro Point Parents Group (PPPG) enjoyed its first year as a group with many fun get togethers including many friday happy hours at the playground, the Easter Egg Hunt, a movie afternoon and the recent Holiday Treats puppet Show that was really fun with a great turnout.

This next year our goal is to make significant progress with breaking ground on our new playground behind the Firehouse by 2012. The committee has come up with a plan that is being finalized and we will need the support of our neighborhood to make it a reality. This will become a great center for our kids where neighbors can meet and spend time. For many of us parents it will be one more extension to our backyards. In the next couple months I will be working with Camille to create a place online where one can go to view a project statement and see details surrounding the progress. It will also chart our fundraising efforts.

The Parents Groups looks forward to a great 2011 and many more events. As always, we welcome families to join our yahoo group if you have not already done so. Email Jennifer Hoover at simply-graphic@comcast.net *Best, Jennifer Hoover*

If you are interested in helping us continue improvements to our neighborhood firehouse, or playground, we can still use your help.

\$25 \$50 \$100 Other

Please make check payable to:
PPCA, P.O. Box 951, Pacifica, CA 94044

Name

Please send a receipt to:

Address

Email

This donation is earmarked for the playground.

CHARLIE BROWN CHRISTMAS TREE EVENT A HUGE SUCCESS!

The Pedro Point Headland's December Habitat Restoration work day was filled with joy, love, and good spirits. Nearly 100 people came out with their partners, families or friends and hunted the headlands for their perfect "Charlie Brown" Christmas tree. For many, it was their first trip to the headlands and they loved it and promised to come back and help at future work days. One volunteer, Ellen Natesan, said "This is our best tree ever! It is really quite lovely. It pretty much takes up the whole living room, but nobody minds." Big thanks go out to all of the volunteers who helped organize and run the event and to Castle Kitchen for letting us home base in their parking lot! Thank you PPCA and Pacifica Land Trust for making this happen!

The Holiday Cheer was abundant and everyone went home with a special tree, a warm heart, and a new memory! Can we do it again next year???

-Lynn Adams



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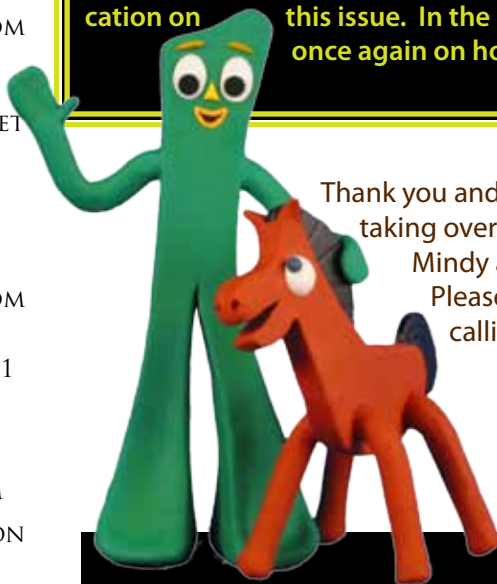
PARKING FEES AT LINDA MAR BEACH

Strapped for revenue, the City of Pacifica has considered establishing a fee for parking in the lot at Linda Mar Beach. Pedro Point residents are concerned because beach-goers seeking free parking could clog our neighborhood streets, and PPCA has discussed the imposition of parking regulations with the Pacifica Police Department and City Manager Steve Rhodes.

The City's plans for a parking fee were put on hold last summer when it became clear that, if Proposition 21 passed in November, such fees would not be legal. But California voters defeated Prop 21 in November, seeming to give the green light to paid parking at the beach. But the same voters passed Proposition 26, the so-called "No Hidden Taxes" proposition. That proposition mandated that many fees, which previously required only a majority vote of the authorized body, be declared "taxes," which require a two-thirds super-majority.

It isn't clear whether a parking fee at Linda Mar beach falls within the umbrella of Prop 26. It's possible, according to City Manager Rhodes, that this fee could require a two-thirds vote of Pacifica residents. The City is currently seeking clarification on this issue. In the meantime, paid parking at Linda Mar Beach is once again on hold.

- Breck Hitz



NEW NEIGHBORS

Thank you and congratulations to Jeannene Minnix Kingston for taking over the New Neighbor greeting duties. Thank you to Mindy and Jose for doing such a wonderful job.

Please contact Jeannene at jlminnix@yahoo.com or by calling 650-255-8833. Also, welcome to:

Gina & Franck Waota
220 Olympian Way

Dustin & Rachel McMinn
255 Kent Rd

2011 PPCA Board of Directors

Traditionally there have been 12 members on the PPCA Board of Directors. There were 13 names nominated to the 2011 Board, three persons withdrew interest from serving on the Board, thereby leaving only 10 persons to serve. Since there are only 10 persons to serve there is no need to have an election for board members.

The 2011 PPCA Board members include Breck Hitz, Bruce Ferry, me (Danny), Jose Barba, Linda Holler, Michael Martin (Welcome aboard), Marcia Settel, Richard Clark (Welcome aboard), Robin Jaquith, and Sam Casillas.

We'll select the officers at the next PPCA general meeting on Thursday January 13. Breck has offered to make the position of Secretary available. So we'll be looking for a new secretary.

- Danny Estrella

The neighborhood potlucks are on winter break. There was only a small turnout for the last one. But we plan to be back in place for March. Tentatively scheduled for March 18th. We'll send out a confirming e-mail closer to the time.

Anyone feeling the need to clean out their houses and have a garage sale? How about a Spring neighborhood-wide sale?

Anyone interested should get in touch with Marcia (650 355-8731) or gilset1158@gmail.com. No need to make a commitment - I just wanted to see if there is enough interest to organize an event.

- Marcia Settel

THE FIREHOUSE FILM SERIES & THE SURFRIDER FOUNDATION

present **SLOW THE FLOW**
a film by Elizabeth Pepin Silva
Sunday, January 23rd, 2 p.m.
a **FREE** event at the Firehouse

Stormwater runoff is the single biggest source of pollution to California's coastal waters.

Slow the flow brings to life practices and projects that individuals and communities have created to steward our watersheds and slow down the flow of storm water, one of the largest contributors of pollution into our waterways.

The event will also offer how-to and informational resources to guide attendees through the inexpensive and easy steps to make ocean & river-friendly landscaping choices that conserve water, capture runoff, prevent pollution and create beautiful and useful spaces around homes and communities.

Ken and Sally Coverdell, owners of Blue Sky Farms and Blue Sky Designs, will be participating in the Slow the Flow event on January 23rd. Here is some information on these two experts.

Ken moved to the coast in 1978 and worked with Francis Coe of Coeland Nursery. He

started his own landscape company, Blue Sky Designs, shortly after. Ken currently holds a landscape contractors license, landscape architects license, and general contractors license and has won numerous awards for his work in both local and state California Landscape Contractor's Association competitions. He became a qualified Bay Friendly landscaper three years ago and has designed jobs to reduce storm water run-off and recycle water on-site for landscape irrigation since 1981.

Sally has a degree in Plant Science from UC Davis and moved to the coast in 1978 to work at Nurserymen's Exchange. She became interested in Green Building in 2005 and began to research and grow more plants native to California. Sally opened Blue Sky Farms in 2008 where she focuses on having a good selection of California native plants and promotes their use in landscaping.

Come to the event and learn all these two have to offer about how to plant native gardens to help maintain a healthy ocean. - *Jessica Anthony*



from Slide, page 1

Go Native has been contracted to insert a couple of check dams on the slide area and to cover the area with rice straw and erosion control material in addition to a few more measures intended to minimize the water reaching the area.

If you are hiking near the green gate on the Headlands you can look for this slide on the main pathway to the arroyo just past the area planted this past year. Above the slide you will see the entrenched straw waddles. By the staging/parking area you will see a new water bar with trees keeping vehicles off of it. On the road up the south ridge from the parking area, look for a number of water bars opened up or installed to run the water off the hill in different locations rather than down the roadway to the staging area which essentially caused the slide.

If you would like to help reduce water erosion on the Headlands by building water dams on the denuded trails, please join the Pacifica Land Trust/PPCA's next habitat restoration workday on Sunday, January 30th. Meet at the Pedro Point Firehouse at 9.45am and plan to return around 1.00 or 1.30. For more information contact Lynn at 650-355-1668.

- *Lynn Adams*

invasive plants so there is always opportunities to do something that might interest you. Habitat restoration work on the Pedro Point Headlands is sponsored by the Pacifica Land Trust and the Pedro Point Community Association, and funded by the California Coastal Conservancy. On January 30th we will be celebrating our one year anniversary of restoration work. Ironically, most of the changes you will notice from this past year will be things you don't see, like pampas grass, french broom, eucalyptus trees that are missing from many of their former hang out locations. Although you may also notice wider trails and fewer duplicate offshoots which served best to confuse hikers. We hope that you will find time this year to join in some of our work days. We always plan a number of activities so you can choose the task you most prefer and we always have fun! For more information, call Lynn at 355-1668. - Lynn Adams

PEDRO POINT HEADLAND UPCOMING WORK DAYS
 Meet at the Firehouse 9:45—1:00 p.m.: January 30th, February 27th,
 March 27th
 It is time to plant on the Pedro Point Headlands and we hope you can join us as we target the slide area not far from the green gate. We'll meet at the Pedro Point Firehouse at 9.45 on Sunday, January 30th to do just this. Last November 35 volunteers came together and planted Pedro Point Headland Native Plant seeds. They have been caring for them since then with the hope of planting them in January. Hopefully some will be ready in time for our January 30th planting but if not, we'll divide into teams to go find species of plants to transplant from the abundant areas of the headlands. The winter is also an excellent time to remove french broom and other

NEXT PPCA MEETING
 Thursday, January 13th, 7:30 pm
 at the Firehouse

AGENDA:

- Officer Elections
- Fresh & Easy Representative
- Brendan Wonnacott
- Neighborhood Mapping
- New Business

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