

# PEDRO POINT COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION

JULY 2013

# TO THE POINT

## Olympian Way Vista Point is Threatened

The footpath and vista point at the western end of Olympian Way will be eliminated if the Pacifica City Council approves a motion to give away that portion of land. On June 10, the City Council preliminarily voted in favor of this land give-away. A final vote on this matter is scheduled to take place at the July 22, 2013 City Council meeting. The City intends to give away this public land to a private party.

This portion of Olympian Way was dedicated to the county for public use, in 1908, as a right of way and has not been paved. Although this right of way has not been paved nearby residents (Karl and Eileen Baldwin) report that it has been used as a footpath for access to the vista point since the 1950s. As many of our community already know, the vista

point provides exhilarating views of the Pacific Ocean, the Farallone Islands, the marine entryway to San Francisco Bay, Marin Headlands, Mt. Tamalpais and Shelter Cove.

The owner of the two lots abutting this property on the north side (lots 30 & 31 on the City map) has requested that the City vacate (release interest in) this property so that it will become absorbed into their private property, at which point it will no longer be accessible to the public. The City will receive no financial consideration in exchange for the release of this property – which comprises approximately 5,000 square feet of unique, ocean bluff, Pedro Point land. The property would then be subject to development as a single-family home. Development on this property would block access to this vista point to everyone but the private landowners to whom it will be given.

At the July 22 meeting of the City Council the following item will be on the agenda: Resolution (#1255) of Intention by the City Council of the City of Pacifica to Vacate a Portion of Olympian Way and Pompeiian Way. The public will have an opportunity to speak at this meeting and express any concerns about this issue. In addition, letters can be sent to the City Council members in advance of this meeting.



Enjoying the Public Access, For Now  
Courtesy of the Baldwin and McKnight Families

## 5th Annual Chili Cook-Off Coming Up!

The 5th Annual Chili Cook-Off is only a month away!

On Sunday August 18th come down to the Firehouse between noon and 4 pm to taste some award winning chili, hear some good music and rub elbows with your neighbors and fellow Pacificans.

We hope to have ten or more contestants again so there should be plenty of Chili. Each contestant makes approximately 8 quarts, but some make much more, in hopes of wooing the crowd and judges. Last year's winners Three Pound Sterling, Marcia Settel, and Vallemar Station will surely make an appearance!

Proceeds go to maintain the Pedro Point Firehouse, but it's not about the money - it's about good food and good company make a great time! If you are interested in joining the contest, please call Bruce or Cherie Ferry at 650-557-1491 or email [cherieandbruce@gmail.com](mailto:cherieandbruce@gmail.com) for an entry form. See you on August 18th!

- Bruce Ferry



The Council will most likely vote to approve the land giveaway at the July 22 meeting unless we give it reason not to do so, so your participation prior to or at the meeting is vital. If you are able to write a letter and attend the July 22 meeting even better! The only way to stop the city from giving this beautiful vista point to a private, land owner is to have your voices heard. So if you have any concerns make sure that they reach the City Council prior to the July 22 meeting or appear at the meeting to voice your opinion.

Letters to the City Council members can be addressed to each council member at the City Hall address 170 Santa Maria Ave, Pacifica or emailed to Kathy O'Connell, the City Clerk at [oconnellk@ci.pacifica.ca.us](mailto:oconnellk@ci.pacifica.ca.us). Here's a list of the City Council members:

Mayor Len Stone  
Mary Ann Nihart  
Karen Ervin

Sue Digre  
Mike O'Neill

I have more information and have collected several documents on this issue and will gladly share them. The documents are simple to understand and will enhance your ability to write an effective letter and/or raise an effective objection at the July 22 City Council meeting. Please feel free to contact me for copies. You can also access the City Council resolution and notice of the July 22 meeting at this website: [http://pacificacityca.iqm2.com/Citizens/Detail\\_LegiFile.aspx?Frame=&MeetingID=1035&MediaPosition=&ID=1255&CssClass=](http://pacificacityca.iqm2.com/Citizens/Detail_LegiFile.aspx?Frame=&MeetingID=1035&MediaPosition=&ID=1255&CssClass=)

- Danny Estrella

**PPCA Board Meeting Minutes - April 18th**

Board Members present: Robin, Bruce, Danny, Michael, Joanne, Breck and Marcia

1. Presentation by Captain Joe Spanheimer of the Pacifica Police Department  
 The city is aiming for July 17th implementation of paid parking at Linda Mar beach. Daily paid parking will be in effect from 8 am to 8 pm. Yearly passes will be available for \$50. The Department is conducting a census of cars parked in neighboring areas in order to judge impact of paid parking on the neighborhood and on local businesses. The fees from the paid parking will go towards paying the salaries of two additional rangers (a third is already used at the beach) and the city cannot use the funds for anything except beach related costs.  
 The apparent existence of a homeless encampment behind the shopping center was brought to the Captain's attention. If the Department is contacted, they will investigate but they are limited if this is private property.  
 The Captain discussed why he believes that outsourcing the Department would not save money for the city. The proposal from South San Francisco would have cost more on its face; the Sheriff's proposal did not resolve certain long-term costs, such as city's pension liability. San Carlos ended up having to hire an additional deputy for traffic control, reducing possible savings.  
 The Police Department has 48 total employees, including 33 sworn officers. Outsourcing of dispatch has not been problematic.  
 The major crime is auto burglary; Honda Accords and Civics are the most frequent targets. The Department issues about 30 citations per month for distracted driving.
2. Firehouse Committee report  
 A May 4th work party is scheduled in order to replace the firehouse lights with LED bulbs. A motion detector was installed for the playground and the front sign is back up. Thank you all for your help!
3. Treasurer's Report was approved.  
 The Parents' group raised approximately \$35,000 to build our wonderful new playground. Camille Keating was instrumental and was specifically thanked.
4. Events Committee  
 Upcoming events include our film night and the Chili Feed. Having an early summer barbecue was also discussed.
5. Other business:  
 The minutes were approved. Lisa Warns is taking over newsletter production responsibilities in October. Thank you Lisa!

*Respectively submitted, Marcia Settel, Secretary*



**Access to the Pedro Point Headlands**

The tunnel may be open, but work by the Pedro Point Headlands access point continues. The area has been under construction and changing frequently since the tunnel opened. As of July 1st, there are cones along the western edge of Hwy 1 and a Road Closed sign restricting access and parking by the green gate. Parking has been mostly relegated to the

eastern side of Hwy 1 on the small turnout there with a challenging crossing of the hwy.

However, more change is in the air and by sometime this fall the road to the Devils Slide parking area and bus stop near the headlands will open and you will soon have safe parking and quick access to the most pristine coastal bluff in the Pacifica area. While a firm date has not been set we've been told it will happen soon... Stay tuned and join a Pacifica Land Trust Pedro Point restoration day if you would like easy access into the Headlands!  
 - Lynn Adams

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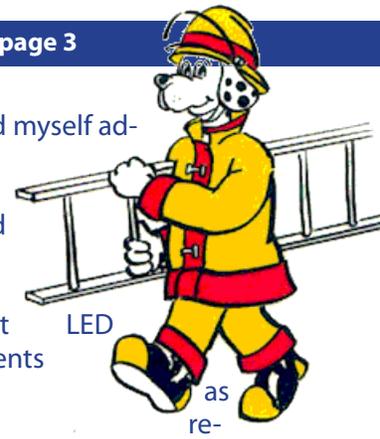
## Firehouse Maintenance Update

On May 4, 2013 a work party, consisting of John Peterson, Breck Hitz, Bruce Ferry, Paul Leow and myself addressed some Firehouse maintenance tasks.

- Under the direction of John Peterson, we made a major upgrade to the ceiling light fixtures in the Firehouse. The 20 light fixtures were removed and ventilation holes were drilled into the base of each fixture to allow warm air to escape from the globes. The ventilation holes were necessary as the efficiency and longevity of the LED bulbs is negatively affected by excessive buildup of heat. The old incandescent bulbs were replaced with 17-watt bulbs and the fixtures were firmly secured to the trusses whereas previously some attachments had been a little loose. We confirmed that each fixture had a securely attached ground wire well. The LED bulbs have a life expectancy of 25,000 hours. So we don't expect to need to place them anytime soon.
- John installed new dimmer switches to operate the ceiling lights. You'll notice an improvement in our lighting now.
- The cooling coils of the refrigerator were vacuumed to ensure efficient operation. They were approximately 40% covered with dust.
- The top of the small wooden table was securely reattached to its base. So that handy table is back in operation.
- Bruce's handmade 'PPCA' corkboard (cork from wine bottle corks) was attached to the front door so event flyers can now be decoratively posted. Check out the names of the wineries printed on the corks. Bruce has good taste in wines!
- The bottom shelf of the stainless steel table behind the bar was leveled so it can now be used for temporary storage.

I want to thank John Peterson for his guidance, as a professional electrician, in ensuring that all of our lighting and electrical upgrades are done up to code. And thank you to Breck, Bruce and Paul for volunteering their time and skills to make our meeting place a safe and comfortable one. Completion of these few tasks really enhance the enjoyment of our hall.

- Danny Estrella



## President's Message

Although the weather has been erratic, the PPCA continues on with a work party and BBQ, in addition to the Potlucks.

Have you noticed the new lighting? Thanks to John Peterson and several neighbors for the installation of the lighting. The bulbs are not only extremely energy efficient, but they look good too!

Finishing touches were put on the Playground and it looks great. come on down and check it out!

The BBQ on the deck was a blast, and many new and old neighbors mixed and mingled amid the smoky flavors. Alas, for some of us this was the last time we were blessed with Hugh Daniel's enlightening wit. We are sorry to see such a strong flame extinguished so suddenly.

As old neighbors leave our community, new neighbors come in... please welcome them and help them get acquainted with the neighborhood.

- Bruce Ferry

## Wow, Grass Is High

That is, the landscape strip along Kent Road in front of the Firehouse is overgrown with grasses. It was maintained previously by a neighbor who has recently moved away leaving us with neither mower nor mower technician to trim the grass. So we need someone who has the expertise and equipment to trim this back occasionally. We're not feeding or watering the strip so it grows slowly. It would be much appreciated if someone could help us out with this. Please contact me if you can help.

- Danny Estrella

**Back by Popular Demand: Summer Barbecues!**



**You missed a great early summer evening at the Firehouse if you didn't make it to our first potluck barbecue. But don't worry - we're doing it again: Sunday, July 21st at 4 pm**  
**Bring dishes to throw on the grill and share with your neighbors.**  
**Side dishes and desserts always welcome! We'll have condiments, bread, plates and silver and drinks.**  
**(Please note: we're doing this instead of the usual Friday night potluck as long as the weather cries out for outdoor cooking!)** - Marcia Settel

Not everyone minds the raindrops and fog of summer. In fact, the natives along our coast especially on the Pedro Point Headlands rely on the summer moisture in the air. If you would like to witness the plishness and learn more about the Pedro Point Headlands and our coastal scrub habitat please join the Pacifica Land Trust at any of the upcoming habitat restoration work days. We do a variety of tasks including trail maintenance, non-native plant patrol, seed collecting and even watering of the new plants to help them make it through the dry season.

Please mark your calendars and plan to join us for some habitat restoration work on the Pedro Point Headlands on July 28th, August 25th and September 21st (Saturday 9-11:30 - Coastal Cleanup day) and October 27th.

**Pedro Point Headlands Continues Restoration Work**



Except for Sept 21st, we will meet at the Pedro Point Firehouse at 9:45 am and carpool up to the site. Whenever possible we plan a hike and refreshments and return to the firehouse between 1 and 1:30. In June, 20 volunteers had fun installing the rest of the trail signs, removing pampas grass and french broom, and widening the Arroyo trail all the way to the ocean. If you would like to get out to the Pedro Point Headlands, we'd love you to join us. Old, young, and everyone in between are encouraged! We have fun and we make a difference. Restoration work is sponsored by the Pacifica Land Trust, supported by the Pedro Point Community Association and funded by a Coastal Conservancy Grant. If you would like more information you can go to [www.pedropointheadlands.org](http://www.pedropointheadlands.org) or contact the stewardship coordinator at 650.355.1668. - Lynn Adams

**Pedro Point Community Association**  
P.O. Box 951  
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No Stamp Needed

**PPCA Board Meeting Agenda:  
Thursday, July 18, 7:30 pm**

- I. Call to Order and Roll Call
- II. Approval of Last Meeting's Minutes
- III. Firehouse Committee Report
- IV. Treasurer's Report
  - a. Balance Sheet, Income & Expense through June 30, 2013
- V. Olympian Way Vista Point - Public Land to Private Ownership
- VI. Pedro Point Field
  - Pacifica Economic Development Plan
- VII. Pedro Point Parents Group Committee Report
- VIII. Events and Fundraising Committee Report
  - a. Upcoming events
- IX. Adjournment

Dear Neighbor,  
Thank you for going Paperless!

Welcome New Neighbors!  
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John Weathersby  
140 Blackburn Terrace  
Glen Spencer and Jeannie Will

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