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# RIO DEL MAR

## Improvement Association

### Fall 2024 Newsletter



**RDMIA Semi-Annual Fall Meeting:**  
Rio Sands Hotel Meeting Room  
Wednesday, October 16th, 2024, at 6:30 PM

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**REMEMBER TO RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP NOW FOR 2025**  
**The annual Membership Fee is \$30 (Use the enclosed form or pay online)**

#### **Fall 2024 RDMIA Newsletter Highlights:**

- A Brief History of the Rio Del Mar Improvement Association
- Updated By-Laws and Expansion of the RDM Association Boundary
- RDMIA Landscaping Efforts, by Committee Chair, Linda Neuman
- Community Corner: Rio Del Mar Elementary School Seeks Public Support



# Fall Newsletter

**The Semi-Annual meeting of the RDMIA will be held on**

**Wednesday, October 16th**

**Rio Sands Meeting Room, 6:30 pm. Doors open at 6:00 pm.**

**Speakers will include:**

**John Hibble from the Aptos History Museum**

Updates on the future of our local History Museum and ways the community can come together to ensure future generations can enjoy our museum.

**Candidates for District 2 Supervisor**

Kristen Brown and Kim DeSerpa will compete in the November run-off. Meet the candidates and hear their responses to questions submitted by members.

**Forrest Revere, representing Supervisor District 2**

Forrest will provide updates on our roads, parks, and other developments specific to our neighborhoods.

**Scott Rohlf, California State Parks Associate Parks and Recreation Specialist**

Scott is our local expert on the history, current condition, and plans for local area parks and beaches.

**The meeting is free to attend and open to all RDMIA residents!**

**♥ Snacks and refreshments will be provided courtesy of Mangiamo Pizza!**

**Thank you to Robert Graham for bringing cookies to our Spring meeting. ♥**

## Rio Del Mar Improvement Association By-Laws Updating Under Way!

The Board began a review last year and discovered several opportunities to improve the document. Examples include replacing dated language and minor revisions to membership types. Members will vote to approve the changes during our October 16 semi-annual membership meeting. A reduction from \$500 to \$250 for a Lifetime Membership will be considered during the meeting and is offered to members now, through the end of 2024.

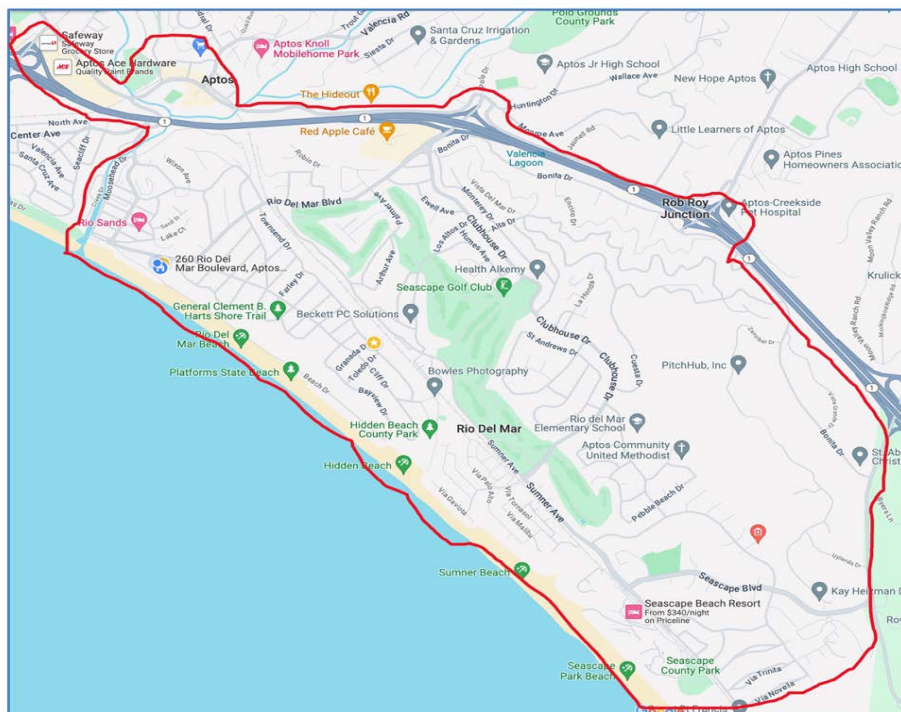
### Membership types:

We revised membership options. A Lifetime Membership can now be passed to a non-family member in the same household. Other forms of membership include a Joint Membership that applies to all household members, an Associate Membership for people not living or owning property in the district, and Honorary Memberships bestowed on individuals who have demonstrated exemplary service to the community.

### Expanded Rio Del Mar membership area:

2024 revisions to the By-Laws include an expanded membership area to include homes and businesses along Soquel Drive between State Park Drive and Freedom Blvd. and any in the Aptos Village Project bounded by Aptos Creek and Trout Gulch, and adding Seascapes and other homes west of San Andreas Road and La Selva Beach.

Homes within the areas served by the Seacliff Improvement Association and the La Selva Beach Association are excluded from the Rio Del Mar Improvement Association territory.



## **Linda's Landscaping Corner**

The RDMIA Landscaping Committee, Association members and professionals have been hard at work "improving" our Rio del Mar Community.

A not-so-known fact is that RDMIA is responsible for the landscaping maintenance of approximately 14 areas. The maintenance areas are from the Rio del Mar entrance sign to the Esplanade at Rio del Mar Beach (7 islands near the Deer Park Shopping Center area, 2 traffic medians, and 5 areas in the Rio del Mar Esplanade area). These areas need to be maintained by weeding, raking, watering, trimming, and occasionally adding new plants.

The committee hopes to embrace our membership and have volunteers take over small areas of maintenance. We are investigating the possibility of members "adopting" a maintenance area to "improve" our lovely community. In return, a sign or plaque will be placed in the area with the member's name and statement of thanks. The plaque/sign component is in the planning stages, but we will keep you informed of any developments. In the meantime, member Jan Thomas has taken over the maintenance of the Treasure Island/Spreckels median and member Joyce Burnett is continuing to maintain the roundabout in the Esplanade. (Thank you, Jan and Joyce, for the great job you are doing.)

We want to reach out to the members and get you involved. We want to establish a volunteer network so the landscaping maintenance gets done. If you are interested in helping with the volunteer efforts in landscaping maintenance you can at the upcoming fall membership meeting on October 16<sup>th</sup>, sign the volunteer sign up list. If you are not able to attend the October 16<sup>th</sup> meeting please send your contact information to [info@rdmia.org](mailto:info@rdmia.org) and we will make sure you are added to our list of volunteers.

The plan is to have clean-up maintenance days throughout the year. We will work off the volunteer list as well as informing the entire membership of the workdays. For liability purposes we will be asking any volunteer over the of 18 to sign a waiver and the Association will loan out safety vests for the safety of our members while working on landscaping maintenance. As a non-profit organization our funds are limited and we depend on our membership dues as our source of income. So that is why volunteering your time is very important.

It is my hope as Landscaping Chairman to rally the members of RDMIA into a sense of pride in the appearance of our community and accomplish this by volunteering to help with the landscaping maintenance. Let's work together to make this happen.

**Submitted by Linda Neuman, RDMIA Landscaping Chairman**

## Community Corner: Restoring Rio Del Mar Park

Submitted by RDMIA member Laura Mottram, President, Rio Del Mar Parent Alliance

The Rio Del Mar Park, or 'the Blue Park' as it is fondly known, is the hub of the community at Rio Del Mar Elementary School. For decades, it has been the spot where families drop off and pick up their kids, where lifelong friendships are made as kids burn off the post-school energy; where birthdays are marked, and Kinder promotion is celebrated; where kids meet their buddies for weekly reading sessions; and after school, where dogs chase balls, whilst their owners exercise.

But now, the swings have been removed and the playground caution-taped off because the structure is too dangerous to play on. Instead of kids playing after school and parents catching up, families head straight home.



Rio Del Mar Park today

Not only is the play structure unsafe, it floods during heavy rain creating a swamp of dirt and floating mulch (the kids bring rain boots on those days to wade to the swings and play structure!). The direct access ramp from Pinehurst that cuts between two houses is dangerously steep, with no handrail. The grills at the back of the park are a health hazard - rusted, leaning and overgrown with weeds. Whilst the entire grassy area, which families must walk across as there is no paved pathway from the access ramp, is pockmarked with gopher holes that are a serious injury hazard.

The School and Rio Del Mar Parent Alliance (RDMPA) is talking to the district and the county (who under a 1994 Joint Partnership Agreement share responsibility for the park) about replacing the playground. We are grateful to have the support of Superintendent Contreras and Supervisor Zach Friend to get this project done. The issue now is money! The district and county are both working to find funds to put into the project, but the cost of replacing the current play structure with a pour-and-play ADA accessible structure would be around \$250,000.



An example of what the new play structure might look like.

We hope that we can engage the support of the Rio Del Mar and wider Aptos community to fundraise and come together to create a wonderful park for our school and neighbors to enjoy.

With community involvement, we envisage a project that would be completed in three stages.

1. Replace the current condemned play structure with an ADA-accessible structure
2. Replace the dangerous access ramp with stairs or ramp that meet codes, and join the ramp to the play area via a walkway
3. Install a multi-use sports court (near to where the grills currently are) - with facilities for basketball, tennis, and pickleball

For the moment, we are working with the district and county on a plan of how to proceed, and we hope to soon share information on how people can donate to the project. In the meantime, we would love to hear from any interested parties with ideas for fundraising or offers of help.

Please follow and support our community at [www.RestoreRioDelMar.com](http://www.RestoreRioDelMar.com) or on our Facebook page [www.facebook.com/groups/restoreriodelmar](http://www.facebook.com/groups/restoreriodelmar).

Please reach out to me at [rio.pa.president@gmail.com](mailto:rio.pa.president@gmail.com) with any questions or suggestions you may have.

Thank you for your support!

Laura Mottram

President, Rio Del Mar Parent Alliance

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### **Community Corner is a new feature for our newsletter.**

If you have a community improvement suggestion or concern, members are invited to bring it to our attention so that we can provide guidance. Members are encouraged to request space in the newsletter.

We are happy to help members with questions about street conditions, utility services, or other matters by finding and sharing reliable information and County agency contacts.

Send your suggestions or requests to the Board at [info@rdmia.org](mailto:info@rdmia.org)



## RDMIA Appreciates New Members and Renewals!

Thank You to those who have already paid their 2024 dues 😊

### Current Board members:

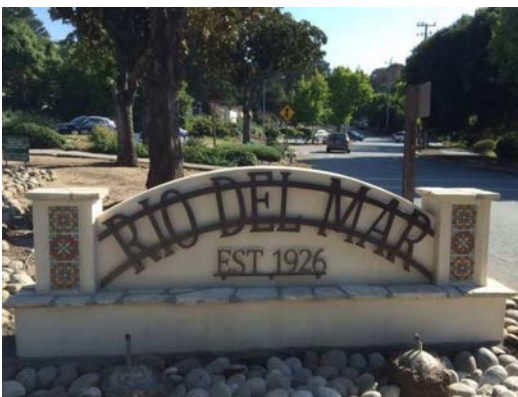
- President elect: Barry Scott
- Vice President elect: Jerry Cannella
- Treasurer: Patricia Perry
- Secretary: Christina DeLapp
- Director: Linda Neuman
- Director: Kiaredza Lavelle
- Director: Kiabeth Cook
- Communications: Joseph Foster

### ***Renewal time is upon us for members to contribute for 2024!***

*Dues enable RDMIA to maintain area landscapes, improve local parks and engage in community interests.*

*2024 RDMIA highlights in the community.*

- *Improved solar lighting.*
- *Tree trimming for solar lighting enhancement.*
- *Continued landscape care – renovated median landscapes.*
- *Ongoing communication and outreach*





Thank you, Business Sponsors!



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Thank you, Aptos Chamber of Commerce & Aptos History Museum!



<http://aptoschamber.com/>



<https://aptoshistory.org/>

**Rio Sands**  
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FREE ON-SITE PARKING

- Spacious king rooms with patios
- 24/7 Guest Services/Business Center
- Year-round heated swimming pool
- Complimentary WiFi and HBO

*100 steps to the beach...*

**ALLEN** PROPERTY GROUP, INC. 116 Aptos Beach Drive | Aptos, CA 95003 | riosands.com | Reservations: 800.826.2077

RDMIA is extending our gratitude to the many sponsors who grace our newsletter with their advertisements. It is a win-win for all. The community learns of our supportive businesses in the area and the community will, hopefully, return the favor by supporting those partners. In the past, it has been customary to ask for a donation from those businesses that advertise in the newsletter.

During Covid, we waived sponsor fees as a showing of support as we knew that all businesses were impacted. As we return to a more traditional model with costs associated with meetings and the work we do in the community, we are reinstating the sponsor fees of \$100 per year, which includes ad space on our website and in this newsletter.

We look forward to a continued partnership!

**Rio del Mar  
Improvement Association**  
PO Box 274  
Aptos, CA 95001-274



## Annual Membership: \$30

Please complete this form and mail to RDMIA, P.O. Box 274, Aptos, CA 95001-0274 along with your payment. Your contact information is used solely for newsletter and RDMIA communications and is not shared with any other member or 3<sup>rd</sup> party.

RDMIA annual membership per household is \$30 by check or \$32 by PayPal (including \$2 PayPal fee).

A "Legacy/Lifetime Membership is available at a cost of \$500, reduced to \$250 for the remainder of 2024.

### Ways To Join:

- Complete membership form online at [www.rdmia.org](http://www.rdmia.org) and pay via PayPal (\$30 + \$2 = \$32)
- Complete the membership form online at [www.rdmia.org](http://www.rdmia.org) and mail a check payable to RDMIA (\$30)
- Print and complete this membership form and mail it to RDMIA, P.O. Box 274, Aptos, CA 95001–0274.

**RDMIA annual membership per household is \$30 by check or \$32 by PayPal (including a \$2 PayPal fee).**

**A \$250 Lifetime "LEGACY MEMBERSHIP" is eternal: membership can be passed to a resident family member!**

Mailing Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Rio del Mar Address (if different) \_\_\_\_\_

Primary Email \_\_\_\_\_

Secondary Email \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone number \_\_\_\_\_

I have no computer access.

Please Email my newsletter to save printing and postage

New Member    Renewing Member   Referred by \_\_\_\_\_

### Get Involved?

I want to volunteer or contribute time or funding for RDMIA projects. Please call or email me.

I am interested in becoming a RDMIA Board member.

### What do you value most about RDMIA? (please check all that apply)

#### Community Outreach

RDMIA newsletter membership

General membership semi-annual meetings

RDMIA website

Presenting interesting speakers

#### Community Advocacy

Interfacing with local government

Updating RDMIA Facebook

Information concerning local issues such as transportation, water, and community events.

#### Beautification

Public area landscape improvements and maintenance

Helping to maintain our beaches

**Rio del Mar  
Improvement Association**  
PO Box 274  
Aptos, CA 95001-274

