



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

Spring 2018 RDMIA Newsletter Highlights:

- Zach Friend, 2<sup>nd</sup> District Supervisor, Community Updates
- Cannabis Cultivation
- Aptos Village Measure J Units
- Seabreeze Tavern Lots
- District Drainage Info and Upcoming Meeting
- SC County Parks Strategic Plan Update Info and Meeting
- RDMIA New Website
- Human Race Fundraiser



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***Mark Your Calendar***

*Rio del Mar Improvement Association  
Membership Meeting*

*Wednesday, April 18<sup>th</sup> – 6:30 – 8pm  
Rio Sands Hotel, 116 Aptos Beach Dr., Aptos  
Details inside*

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# Annual Membership Renewal and Information Update

The Rio del Mar Improvement Association annual membership per household is \$30 by check or \$32 by PayPal (includes \$2 PayPal fee). A \$500 lifetime membership is also offered.

## Ways To Join

- Complete membership form online at [www.rdmia.org](http://www.rdmia.org) and pay via PayPal (\$30 + \$2 = \$32)
- Complete membership form online at [www.rdmia.org](http://www.rdmia.org) and mail check payable to RDMIA (\$30)
- Print out membership form, complete along with check payable to RDMIA (\$30) and mail

Please 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.

## Membership Information

Please print legibly – thank you

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

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

Telephone number \_\_\_\_\_ I have no computer access \_\_\_\_\_

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

Please send the RDMIA Newsletter by email to save printing/mailing costs Yes \_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_

## Get Involved?

\_\_\_\_ I want to volunteer or contribute (time, \$, or in-kind) for RDMIA projects. Please call or email me

\_\_\_\_ I am interested in becoming a RDMIA Board member

## What do you value most about RDMIA? (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/roads

### Beautification

\_\_\_\_ Public area landscape improvements and maintenance

\_\_\_\_ Helping to maintain our beaches

## RDMIA Semi-annual Spring Meeting

You are invited to attend the RDMIA Spring bi-annual membership meeting. All are welcome and it is a great opportunity to learn more about Rio del Mar updates and upcoming association's projects. Pizza and soft drinks will be served. Please RSVP at [info@rdmia.org](mailto:info@rdmia.org).



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*Wednesday, April 18th, 6:30 -8:00 pm*

*Rio Sands Hotel, 116 Aptos Beach Dr., Aptos*

- *New pump station in the Rio del Mar Flats*
  - *Aptos Village Measure J Housing*
  - *Human Race Fundraiser*
- 

Zach Friend, 2<sup>nd</sup> District Supervisor, will be our guest speaker and will address current issues affecting our community and surrounding areas. Key issues to be discussed are:

- New pump station in the Rio del Mar Flats
- Aptos Village Measure J Housing
- Human Race Fundraiser

Scott Grady, SVP of Development from Terramar Retail Centers is tentatively scheduled to speak about construction progress and provide a Rancho del Mar shopping center update.

Come early for pizza and refreshments, meet and greet your neighbors and other members and join in the conversation. We hope to see you there for an informative and fun evening.

## The Mission

The Rio del Mar Improvement Association is a non-profit neighborhood organization with the mission is to enhance our neighborhood and make it a better place to live. Our members are committed to maintaining and improving the Rio del Mar community through advocacy, beautification and engagement. The association actively engages in these activities on behalf of its homeowners and residents:

- Negotiate and initiate improvement projects, benefits and services that improve quality of life
- Educate homeowners and renters so they can more easily make informed choices
- Advocate and represent vital issues to government leaders on behalf of residents
- Host twice-yearly membership meetings covering important local issues and updates
- Broadcast useful community information via informative quarterly newsletters

Become a part of this vital association. Community, conservation and cooperation are important aspects of the Rio del Mar Improvement Association. Membership benefits include:

- Informative newsletters throughout the year
- Bi-annual meetings covering important community issues
- Email alerts about local government developments that impact Rio del Mar

**Join today!** Please complete the membership form provided or visit [www.rdmia.org](http://www.rdmia.org) for the online form and more RDMIA information. Many thanks to all our current members in support of the Association.

## Community Updates from Zach Friend

2<sup>nd</sup> District County Supervisor



There has been a lot going on over the last few months. The lack of rain (while not good for our aquifers) has allowed for storm damage work on Valencia and on Soquel at the trestle as well as construction to continue work at Rancho del Mar and the Aptos Village. Rancho del Mar is being remodeled in phases and they anticipate that each phase will be under construction for 4-6 months. Aptos Village still anticipates having New Leaf and some other shops and restaurants open later this year (early Fall) with some of the housing open earlier. The major road improvements have been completed there (including the new traffic signals) with additional work starting soon on the new Parade Street (the middle of the Village).

As always, feel free to call me with any questions at 831.454.2200.

### Cannabis

The Board of Supervisors has been working on completing rules for the cultivation of cannabis. I have been focused on ensuring that commercial cultivation occurs in proper areas and not in residential districts or rural residential areas that would be most impacted. This has been a very extensive process – with changes to state law on cultivation and recreational use also adding complexities. The Planning Commission and Board of Supervisors will have additional hearings on this in March and April – if you are interested in this issue I encourage you to attend one of these upcoming meetings or submit your comments online in advance. You can always feel free to call me with any questions regarding what is being proposed.

### Aptos Village Measure J Units

If you are renting in Rio del Mar (and are a first-time homebuyer) you might be interested in the new Aptos Village Measure J units that will be available for purchase. These are deed-restricted affordable homeownership units in the new Aptos Village project and they will be available for first-time home buyers with household earnings at or below 120 percent of the area median income. Ten total units will available (1,2, and 3-bedroom homes).

The estimated price of the Aptos Village Measure J homes is in the \$256,000 - \$280,000 range for a 1 – bedroom, \$296,000 - \$322,000 for a 2 – bedroom and \$338,000 - \$363,000 for a 3 – bedroom.

Applications are due May 18<sup>th</sup> and a drawing will be held on June 1<sup>st</sup> for qualified applicants. We expect a significant amount of interest in these units so to learn more about how to apply (and to confirm your eligibility), you can visit the Planning Department's website at [www.sccoplanning.com](http://www.sccoplanning.com) (halfway down the page you will see a link for the Aptos Village units) or call 454-2336.

## Seabreeze Tavern Lots

My office receives regular questions regarding the lots next to the Seabreeze Tavern. The county has purchased the lots as part of a tax auction and we cleaned them up (removing a significant number of loads of trash from the lots). We are looking at short term and long term uses for the lots – with a goal of possibly having the lots become a small public park in the longer term. Right now, there is no dedicated funding for that, so we are looking at shorter term uses (with shorter term being 5 years of maybe more) that would service the public better than a fenced-up lot! We've been told by many in Rio del Mar that it would be good to have something there where people can enjoy the outdoors and still enjoy a meal – a meeting place for the Esplanade area.

Our County Parks Department is working on an RFP process to see if there are local proprietors interested in that location and what they might be interested in using it for. The funding from leasing of the location would be used to make improvements to the County owned or maintained areas along the Esplanade and Beach Drive and help eventually fund the long-term plan for that space. Your continued feedback on this is appreciated. I think it was an important step to get the space into public ownership, so we could clean them up and help them become a positive public location moving forward.

## County Parks Strategic Plan Update

Kate Minott, Santa Cruz County Parks & Rec Commission



Last spring, the Santa Cruz County Department of Parks, Open Space and Cultural Services initiated extensive community outreach for opinions and advice concerning the first County Park Strategic Plan. The Strategic Plan is intended to provide an overarching structure and timeline guidance for the Parks Department to maintain safe public use of 1,400-acres of county parkland including our own Seacliff Village County Park, and coastal pathways, and to prioritize current indoor and outdoor recreational and cultural programs throughout our family of 64 county parks.

For example, through last year's five county-wide community workshops and the on-line survey, Aptos residents revealed they would like to have more neighborhood parks and to stop having to travel to playgrounds in other parts of the County. Additionally, Aptosians would like an expansion in the variety of recreational uses at existing parks and the completion of park master plans at undeveloped county parks such as Polo Grounds, Aptos Village and Seacliff Village.

During March 2018, County Parks will present the Draft Strategic Plan at three community meetings to get input from you and other members of the public and on April 2, 2018, the Parks & Recreation Commission will hold a hearing to review and hear additional public comments about the Draft Strategic Plan. The final Draft Strategic Plan is expected to go before the Board of Supervisors in May.

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*Share your opinion about this plan by attending one of three upcoming public meetings held from 6:00 PM to 7:30 this month:*

- *March 27 (Tuesday): Community Room, Simpkins Family Swim Center, Live Oak*
- *March 28 (Wednesday): Highlands Park, Ben Lomond*
- *March 29 (Thursday): Civic Plaza Community Room, Watsonville*

## Storm Drainage – A Brief Background

The County is in the advanced stages of a drainage plan for the Flats area and RDMIA has hosted presentations about the proposed plan. Rio del Mar experiences drainage and flooding issues and there is no question that the lack of adequate drainage infrastructure is an ongoing issue.

Zach Friend has spoken extensively with SC Public Works and county drainage experts about a solution to help fund a true drainage district in Rio del Mar (and in Seacliff which faces many significant drainage issues as well). A drainage district can provide the proper infrastructure to improve the 80 + year old drainage systems.

The flooding that occurs along Sumner Drive, Townsend Drive and areas along Spreckles Drive all tie back to the antiquated drainage approach that does not convey water to proper channels. Many homes flooded push back the water off their properties into the street where it hopefully heads towards an old culvert. In many cases the water flows downhill flooding other properties.

Zach Friend will host a community meeting with RDMIA and the Seacliff Improvement Association to address long term drainage needs and solutions. County staff will be on hand to discuss drainage district details including boundaries, what the district currently funds, its authority scope and what can be done to improve it.

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### *District Drainage Information Meeting*

*Remember last winter? Does your street lack adequate storm drains? Did your property flood?*

*Supervisor Zach Friend is hosting a meeting to discuss drainage problems and solutions with county staff and residents. Issues addressed at the meeting will include:*

- An understanding of the storm water management district's boundaries*
- What the zone's authority is and what work can be done*
- Funding challenges and options*

*April 3, 2018 from 6:30 – 7:30 pm*

*Rio Sands Hotel, 116 Aptos Beach Drive, Aptos*

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# Community Emergency Response Team



## New and Continuing Certification Training

Are you interested, or do you have neighbors who want CERT training, or do you need to make up CERT basic classes you missed to get certified? Attend a future class scheduled throughout Santa Cruz County.



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### *2018 CERT Basic Course Dates:*

*Watsonville – April 4 – 28*

*Both classroom and practical work Wednesday evenings, one Saturday*

*Aptos – Aptos Fire – Sept 5 -29*

*Both classroom and practical work Wednesday evenings, one Saturday*

*Live Oak – Central Fire – Oct 3- 27*

*Both classroom and practical work Tuesday evenings, one Saturday*

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Please visit the Santa Cruz CERT website for more information and complete details.

[www.santacruzcountycert.org/cert-training-classes](http://www.santacruzcountycert.org/cert-training-classes).

Consider being a Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) member – your commitment could save lives or encourage your friends and neighbors to be CERT-trained and register for classes. You are the best advocate for their attendance by sharing what you learned and how it makes for a safer neighborhood. Find out more at [www.santacruzcountycert.org](http://www.santacruzcountycert.org)

## Rio del Mar Flats CERT Fundraiser

Start your Saturday morning at the Rio del Mar Flats CERT yard sale, held in the vacant Seabreeze Tavern Lots on the Esplanade. You're sure to find a treasure or two while supporting the important work of the RDM Flats CERT team. See you there!



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*CERT Fundraiser, Rio del Mar Flats*

*Saturday, May 19<sup>th</sup> from 9:00 am – 3:00 pm*

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# News and Upcoming Events



## New Website

We invite you to check out the newly designed website for RDMIA if you have not had the chance to yet. For those of you who have, we appreciate the positive feedback and thoughtful comments.

The new website supports the association's mission to serve the community through advocacy, beautification and engagement. The many site improvements include:

- Notification of RDMIA related events
- RDMIA sponsored projects and ways to get involved
- Community resource contacts
- Business sponsor recognition
- Newsletter archives

Consider the site a handy resource for local information, community happenings and resources. We welcome your continued feedback at [info@rdmia.org](mailto:info@rdmia.org). Thank you for your continued support.

## Hidden Beach Earth Day Cleanup

Saturday, April 21<sup>st</sup> 9:00 – 11:00 am



The Rio del Mar Improvement Association and Save Our Shores will sponsor an Earth Day beach cleanup at Hidden Beach, Aptos, on Saturday, April 21, 9-11 a.m. Meet at the picnic tables at Hidden Beach Park to sign in and pick up supplies. Students may earn community service credit. Rain cancels event.

Event sponsored by the Rio Del Mar Improvement Association and Save Our Shores. For more information visit [www.rdmia.org](http://www.rdmia.org). Additional Earth Day activities in Santa Cruz please visit Earth Day Santa Cruz at [www.scearthday.org](http://www.scearthday.org)

## Human Race Fundraiser

Saturday, May 12, 2018

The fun begins at 9:00 am. Rain or Shine



The Association is raising monies to build a fund for potential Hidden Beach Park improvements. Working with the SC parks department, RDMIA's goal of \$1,500 will start with replacing the picnic table surfaces. Support the team in a variety of ways:

- Collect donors for the team
- Donate to RDMIA Human Race
- Email your family and friends for their support

Enjoy music, fun food and the beautiful ocean view along West Cliff Drive while raising proceeds for RDMIA's next beautification project. Join us in making a community difference! For more info please contact [secretary@rdmia.org](mailto:secretary@rdmia.org)



## Outgoing Board Member Appreciation

### Fay Levinson, outgoing Director

Many thanks to Fay Levinson for her committed service to RDMIA. Fay joined the association in Fall 2008 and has served on the Beaches, Park and Environmental Committee and the Governmental Affairs/Planning and Zoning committee lending her expertise and continual enthusiasm. Fay was actively involved in the Esplanade and roundabout project.

Fay is a long-time resident of Rio del Mar, and lives here with her husband, Joe. She retired from UCSC in 1997. She has served as an Ano Nuevo State Natural Reserve docent for 33 years. Her interest in Government Affairs keeps her up to date on actions of SC County government affecting our area.

Fortunately, Fay will continue her good work with RDMIA and Save the Shores for Hidden Beach clean-up days. Thank you to Joe as well, for assisting Fay in her many endeavors. Both your contributions are appreciated and help make Rio del Mar the special place it is!

### Carey Pico, outgoing Secretary

Many thanks to Carey Pico for your contributions to RDMIA. Carey joined the Board in 2014 bringing an interest in County zoning changes in his neighborhood. Carey assumed the Secretary role and served as the association's newsletter editor and maintained the older RDMIA website.

Carey's numerous life adventures include living in Europe, Washington DC and California. He enjoyed his work as a PhD in Material Science developing improved semiconductors before choosing a mid-career shift to support his wife's ambitions as a plant pathologist. Carey and his wife and two children have called Rio del Mar home for the past 9 years.

Many thanks Carey for your involvement and participation in the RDMIA. Happy trails to you!

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#### *Friendly Reminder*

*Don't forget to pay your 2018 dues. Dues can be paid online via PayPal or by check payable to RDMIA. Checks can be mailed to P.O. Box 274, Rio del Mar, CA 95001  
Annual dues: \$30 or PayPal \$32 (\$2 fee)*

*Thank you for your continued support*

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# Welcome New RDMIA Members

Thank you neighbors for joining and contributing to the community!

- Tim Barroca
- Gina Colfer
- Donna Drejer
- Marjie Miller
- Tim Shannon
- Anne and Terry Sopira



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## *RDMIA Logo Mug*

*Calling all members to reach out and refer a neighbor or friend to join RDMIA. With every new paid membership, receive the RDMIA's new logo mug as our way of saying thank you for spreading the word. Make sure the new member lists your name on their membership form.*

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## Rio del Mar Improvement Association Board

President:	Dan Rothenbush	Secretary:	Donna Townsend
Vice President:	Jerry Canella	Director:	Peter Townsend
Treasurer:	Will Sutter		

RDMIA welcomes members interested in becoming a Board member or leading in the following areas:

- Board member
- Landscape coordinator
- Membership coordinator

The RDMIA Board meets on the first Wednesday of the month at the Aptos/La Selva Fire Department on Soquel Drive next to Mar Vista Elementary School at 6:30 pm. The meeting is open to the public and we welcome your input. For more info please contact [president@rdmia.org](mailto:president@rdmia.org)

## Financial

Beginning Balance 1/1/18		<b>\$10,666.40</b>
Income	Membership Dues	1,287.35
	Banking Adjustment	20.85
Expenses	Landscaping	-162.32
	Post Office	-45.00
Transfer	To Savings	-390.60
Ending Balance 1/28/18		<b>\$11,376.68</b>

# Thank You to Our Sponsors

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**bhg** BARTFIELD HOTEL GROUP

116 Aptos Beach Drive | Aptos, CA 95003 | riosands.com | Reservations: **800.826.2077**

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## Mark Your Calendar

*Rio del Mar Improvement Association  
Membership Meeting*

*Wednesday, April 18<sup>th</sup> – 6:30 – 8pm  
Rio Sands Hotel  
116 Aptos Beach Dr., Aptos*

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**NOBODY KNOWS  
YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD  
like your neighbor!**

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PERSONAL TOUCH!**

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## Thank You to Our Sponsors



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[Martineznsonlandscaping@gmail.com](mailto:Martineznsonlandscaping@gmail.com)

Do you own a business or know a business interested in RDMIA's community engagement? RDMIA business sponsorships help fund various projects from inception to completion and those that require ongoing maintenance.

Support is greatly appreciated and it really makes a difference!

A business sponsorship includes:

- Ad placement in the association's quarterly newsletter depending on sponsorship level
- Acknowledgment of support at the association's meeting held twice yearly
- *New this year* -Sponsorship recognition on the RDMIA.org website, newly refreshed and launched

If interested please contact [treasurer@rdmia.org](mailto:treasurer@rdmia.org). for more details and to sign up