

RIO DEL MAR Improvement Association

(www.rdmia.org)

Fall 2015 Update



Rio del Mar Community Reaps the Benefits of the RDMIA

It has been a banner year for the Rio del Mar Improvement Association (RDMIA). Three of our multi-year projects have come together: the Roundabout, Esplanade Beautification with a sitting bench, and the Rio del Mar entrance sign at Clubhouse Dr. and Rio del Mar Blvd. are either completed or close to it. We hope you are enjoying the fruits of our labor every time you exit Hwy 1 and see the Rio del Mar sign, breathe in the ocean air and bask in the sun sitting on our new bench, or just driving in circles admiring the Roundabout. Just love it.

Rest assured, even though the RDMIA deserves its day of rest, the world continues to turn. Our mission to improve Rio del Mar continues as well but with a focus on the important, but less dramatic issues: maintaining plantings in meridians, roundabouts, and side-scapes. At the request of several residents, we are working to reduce the placing of real estate signs in the middle of roadways, which is not allowed by County ordinance. We continue to monitor County developments such as Open Spaces, Zoning Ordinances, Aptos Village, and Rail issues to keep afloat and ahead of any surprises that may come our way.

Inside we'll update you on awards, important dates, our semi-annual meeting, tree permits, and more.

We thank our RDMIA members for their participation and support!

RDMIA Earns Award for Making Rio del Mar a Better Place!



The Rio del Mar Improvement Association (RDMIA) was awarded the **Outstanding Achievement Award** by the Aptos Chamber of Commerce. This is in recognition of RDMIA's work, not just for the recent projects including the Roundabout, Esplanade, and Rio del Mar Entrance Sign, but also for making Rio del Mar a better place to live overall.

We are also honored that two of our Board members, Melanie Freitas and Patrick Kelley, were nominated for the Woman of the Year and the Man of the Year award, respectively. If you knew how much each of them have done and continue to do for our community, I'm sure you'd vote them #1.

Save Our Shores Beach Clean Up Dates:

9am: Hidden Beach - Meet at Hidden Beach Park picnic tables

January 8, 2016 (Friday)

April 6, 2016 (Wednesday)

SOS supplies the materials used for clean-up (bags, gloves) and participants must sign a liability waiver for SOS (available at the picnic table). High School students can earn community service hours as well.

For further information, please contact Fay Levinson at fayjoe1@yahoo.com. Thanks for helping RDMIA!!!! (cancelled if the event of rain)

PVUSD No School Days

Oct. 2 (Fri) SBC

Nov. 11 (Wed) Veterans Day

Nov. 25-27 (Wed.-Fri.) Thanksgiving

Dec. 21 - Jan. 11 Winter Break

Semi-Annual RDMIA Meeting October 21

Elections

The Rio del Mar Improvement Association holds its Semi-Annual Meeting on Wednesday, October 21 at 7:00PM at the Rio Sands Hotel. The meeting will begin with the results of the election of four Directors. The Directors will be introduced and make announcements.

Guest Speakers

We have two guest speakers at this meeting. The first will be Supervisor Zach Friend updating us on issues that affect the Rio del Mar area . He will include information on County code compliance updates, and other issues of interest.

Our second speaker will be Greig Rose Senior Instructor, CERT Training, Aptos- La Selva Fire District. CERT stands for "COMMUNITY EMERGENCY RESPONSE TEAM". Its function is two- fold: to educate citizens on likely disasters and preparations to minimize disruption and to serve as an extension of emergency services when needs outweigh resources.

Parade and Membership

As part of our meeting time will be set aside to discuss two items.

- 1) In 2016 the RDMIA will be celebrating its 75th anniversary and is the second oldest Association in the State of California. Currently the Board would like to participate in the Aptos World's Shortest Parade on July 4th 2016 to celebrate this occasion.
- 2) With so many new Rio del Mar neighbors recently, we are aiming to boost our membership to include them into our community. We need everybody! We will be soliciting input from our members on the best way to attract new members. But the bottom line is that we need new members.



Welcome New Board Members

Meet Will Sutter

My name is Will Sutter. My wife, Blanche, and I have lived in Rio Del Mar for the past 22 years. Our home was first used as a weekend get-a-way from Silicon Valley where we both worked. I worked at IBM for thirty years and then in Real Estate for three. When my wife retired in 2000, we sold our Willow Glen home and moved to Rio Del Mar full time. Our two sons and their wives have blessed us with six amazing grand children who all love to come and visit us here near the beach.

We truly love it here, and no matter where we travel, we always are happy to be coming home. We have been members of the Rio Del Mar Improvement Association for a number of years. I became a RDMIA Board Member over the summer because I want to personally contribute to helping keep Rio Del Mar such a fantastic place to live. If you are not already a member, I would encourage you to join and help us toward our goal of fostering a sense of neighborhood community and pride.

Meet Carey Pico

I joined the RDMIA Board a year ago after the Board noticed my working to get County zoning changes to improve our neighborhood. I've since taken on the duties of RDMIA Secretary, Editor of this newsletter, our Facebook page, and upkeep of the RDMIA website.

My wife, two children, and I moved here 9 years ago. I am a native of San Diego with a Ph.D. in Materials Science. My career was developing ways to make semiconductors and the likes. I chose mid-career to support my wife's ambitions as a plant pathologist, moving to Europe, back to California, the DC area (USDA), and now here. Along the way I have taken on jobs and projects to help people and improve society. My being a Board member at RDMIA is one more project in this direction.

Board Election

Each year the Board holds elections for Board members. Board members are elected for a two-year renewable term. The RDMIA bylaws call for election of three board members on even numbered years and four Board members on odd-numbered years.

This year Fay Levinson, Dan Rothenbush, Melanie Shafer Freitas and Carey Pico will be on the ballot below. You are requested to vote for as many as four. Please return the ballot by regular mail before October 17.

Please fold as indicated, attach a stamp and mail to the address below.

Fold up (first) _____.

RDMIA 2015 BOARD BALLOT (Submit/Mail by Wednesday, October 14)

Please print and vote for as many as four candidates:

- Fay Levinson
- Dan Rothenbush
- Melanie Freitas
- Carey Pico

Fold up (second, so address on back side is shown) _____.

Ballot

Ballot

Fold down and tape _____.

Stamp

Rio del Mar Improvement Association
P.O. Box 274
Rio del Mar, CA 95001-0274

Fold down and tape _____.

Esplanade and Roundabout Update

(by Patrick Kelley)



Just an update on some of our projects around the neighborhood: The Roundabout is mostly complete now with the planting all settling in nicely. We await one more piece of 'the Round' which will be a donor plaque on a large rock that will rest in the island.

At the Esplanade we now have some additional help with the inclusion of Todd Baird Landscape and his crew. They will be down there to do some of the things that never seem to get done, and we welcome their help!

There are two other areas in the neighborhood that we will be dealing with - the planter at Sumner and Rio del Mar Blvd and the planter at Spreckels and Treasure Island. Sumner's plants are always in need of water. I personally have to water that area by hand, bringing in water with me as the closest neighbors don't want me to use theirs. Uhggg. If anybody has sway with these folks, it would be such a joy to be able to just water now and then with a nearby hose (what a concept!). Lastly, the planter at Spreckels and Treasure Island is going to get the benefit of some donated succulents (thank you, Donors!).

While we're on the topic of watering, I could use a hand with the watering... and a little weeding. Actually, more than one hand. Do we have any volunteers? We do appreciate the great occasional help from the Sheriff's Dept. and their Work-Release crew - they're quite good, but we could use a couple of consistent volunteers.

Hope you are all enjoying the amazing weather and warm water and we welcome your suggestions about how we can make things better for the community!... enjoy!!

Time to Renew Your Annual RDMIA Membership

It is time to renew your membership in the Rio del Mar Improvement Association. Your membership provides funding for supporting community projects and keeping you informed about what is going on in our neighborhood. For previous members just send a check or use pay pal for \$25.00 for 2016 Membership. New members need to print and fill out the membership form included in this newsletter.

Send checks to RDMIA PO Box 274 Aptos CA 95001-0274.

Also we currently have a Board Member vacancy. If you are interested in helping our community, please contact Dan Rothenbush at 831-688-6381.

Why is it important to be a member of RDMIA?

RDMIA provides many valuable services to you. In 2014-2015, the RDMIA:

- Managed regular landscaping of traffic islands on Rio del Mar Boulevard and is now starting regular landscaping of the Roundabout and "Flats area"
- Constructed the new entrance sign to Rio del Mar across from Deer Park Center
- Relocated the Whaley Sculpture and added new landscaping to the Roundabout area
- Installed a plaque listing major donors for the 2014-2015 Beautification Fund in the Roundabout
- Coordinated Dedication Ceremony in June 2015 for the new roundabout
- Worked with the County Public Works Department to prohibit real estate "open house" signs on County traffic medians and the roundabout to reduce visual clutter
- Managed regular clean ups for Hidden Beach in coordination with Save our Shores
- Worked closely with Supervisor Zach Friend and other elected/appointed officials to improve the Rio del Mar community
- Coordinated RDMIA semi-annual meetings as an opportunity for Rio del Mar property owners and residents to discuss issues of concern.

FOR ALL OF THE ABOVE REASONS AND MORE, PLEASE PARTICIPATE AND SUPPORT THE RIO DEL MAR IMPROVEMENT ASSOCIATION!!

When is a "Significant Tree Removal Permit" Required to Remove a Tree

from Fay Levinson



A permit is required when the tree(s) identified for removal are located in the County's Coastal Zone and meet the criteria listed in the bulleted items below. An additional situation in which a permit is required would be in an area considered "Sensitive Habitat" (refer to last bullet, below).

Per County Code section 16.34.030, a "significant tree" shall include any tree, sprout, clump, or group of trees, as follows (d.b.h. = diameter at breast height):

- Within the Urban Services Line or Rural Services Line, any tree which is equal to or greater than 20 inches d.b.h. (approximately 5 feet in circumference); any sprout clump of five or more stems each of which is greater than 12 inches d.b.h. (approximately 3 feet in circumference); or any group consisting of five or more trees on one parcel, each of which is greater than 12 inches d.b.h. (approximately 3 feet in circumference).
- Outside the Urban Services Line or Rural Services line, where visible from a scenic road, any beach, or within a designated scenic resource area, any tree which is equal to or greater than 40 inches d.b.h. (approximately 10 feet in circumference); any sprout clump of five or more stems, each of which is greater than 20 inches d.b.h. (approximately 5 feet in circumference); or, any group consisting of ten or more trees on one parcel, each greater than 20 inches d.b.h. (approximately 5 feet in circumference).
- Any tree located in a sensitive habitat as defined in Chapter 16.32. Also see Section 16.34.090 (www.codepublishing.com/ca/santacruzcounty/html/SantaCruzCounty16/SantaCruzCounty1634.html#16.34.090), exemption of projects with other permits.

You can find this and more information with web links at:

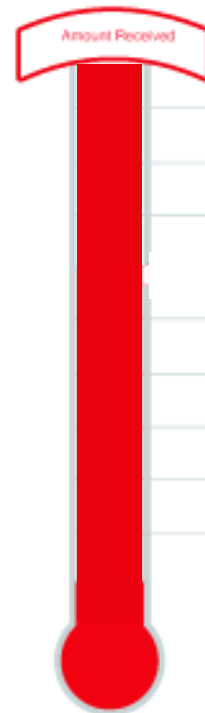
<http://www.sccoplanning.com/PlanningHome/Environmental/TreeProtectionandRemoval/WhenisaPermitRequiredtoRemoveaTree.aspx>

Beautification Projects Are A Success!

The Board of Directors of the Rio del Mar Improvement Association is pleased to announce that the 2014-2015 beautification projects were very successful. Over \$13,000 was donated by individuals and businesses to pay for:

- Relocating the Whaley Sculpture to the new roundabout
- Installing landscaping in the new roundabout
- Creating a Memorial Bench Program for the Esplanade
- Constructing a new welcome sign in the traffic island by Deer Park Center
- Landscaping improvements to the new roundabout
- New sign with solar lighting at Rio del Mar entrance on the traffic median by Deer Park Center
- Plaque with listing of major donor names.

\$13,000!!!



Our goal

THANK
YOU!

Thank you to all who contributed either with monetary donations or donations of labor and materials. This was truly a community effort and reflects the generosity and commitment of those who live in this beautiful area known as Rio del Mar.

The names of donors as of September 1, 2015 are listed on the next page.

We Thank You... 2014-2015 Beautification Fund Donors

(as of September 1, 2015)

Whale Level (\$500 +)

Allen Property Group
Joyce Burnett and John Giovannetti
Finkelman Family Charitable Foundation
Mike Freitas and Melanie Shaffer Freitas
John Fuchs Construction (in kind donation of services)
Robert and Marilyn Hoyt
Ginny Solari Mazry
Whaley and McClure Families
Marc Monte
Pelagia Butler Family
Steve and Renee Robbins
Bob and Judy Sanchez
County of Santa Cruz (in kind donation of permit fee)
Garry and Judy Stutheit

Dolphin Level (\$250-499)

Supervisor Zach Friend
Jeanne Harrison (Café Rio)
Jay Hughes
Bill and Nancy Jackson
Fay Levinson and Jose Vela
Ken and Patti Lindsay
Steve and Laura Matarazzo
Jeremiah and Sandra Murphy
Dan Rothenbush
Robert Wall Family
Les White

Sea Otter Level (\$25 to 249)

Anonymous
Aptos History Museum
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Peggy Eklund
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President Dan Rothenbush

Vice President Pat Kelley

Treasurer Melanie Freitas

Directors:

Fay Levinson

Carey Pico

Will Sutter

Vacancy

Secretary:

Carey Pico

Upcoming Events

Rio Del Mar Improvement Association Semi-Annual Meeting

Wednesday, October 21, 7-9 pm

Save Our Shores Beach Clean Up Dates

2016:

Friday, January 9, 9 am (Hidden Beach Park)

Wednesday, April 6, 9 am (Hidden Beach Park)