

RIO DEL MAR Improvement Association

(www.rdmia.org)



RDMIA Semi-Annual Spring Meeting:
Rio Sands reception room
Wednesday, May 18, 2022 at 6:30PM

**REMEMBER TO RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP NOW
for 2022. Fee is \$30 (Use form on mailer side)**

Spring 2022 RDMIA Newsletter Highlights:

- Zach Friend, 2nd District Supervisor, Community Updates
- Rio Del Mar Beach Armoring Project
- General Clement B. Harts Shore Trail Improvements
- Rio Flats Mural project update

Spring 2022 Newsletter



The Semi-Annual meeting of the RDMIA will be held on Wednesday May 18 at 6:30 pm.

We're able to meet in person again and have reserved the meeting room at the Rio Sands! Doors will open at 6:00 pm.

Speakers will include.:

Kieran Kelly:

Kieran will provide District 2 updates on behalf of Supervisor Friend.

Seargent Kyle Matson:

Seargent Matson will share news from the Sheriff's office

Monica Martinez, GreenWaste:

Monica is the Environmental Outreach Coordinator and will explain new requirements for SB1383, the composting ordinance.

Please RSVP to rdmia1941@gmail.com.



Community Updates

From County Supervisor Zach Friend

Broadband Expansion

Last year, I brought an item to the Board of Supervisors to use \$500,000 of our recovery funding toward broadband expansion. The pandemic highlighted the critical need for access to affordable, high-speed internet. For students participating in remote learning, seniors accessing tele-health programs, and workers attempting to work remotely, high-speed internet is an essential resource. Yet, many households in our community, and throughout the state, either have limited bandwidth to meet their needs or are priced out of options.

The unincorporated area of Santa Cruz County contains numerous areas that have no internet service or very slow internet service. The Board sought proposals from local and national providers with the intention of finding one or more partners to help provide broadband internet service in the unserved/underserved areas. Underserved areas are defined where at least eighty percent of the population has access to internet speeds under 100 Mbps download / 20 Mbps upload.

Submissions were evaluated under the criteria of network reliability, cost-effectiveness, capability to meet project goals and schedule, service to the largest number of constituents, service speed, experience, funding capabilities, and experience in partnering with local governments as well as ability to serve lower-income households.

Cruzio Internet was awarded the grant for this first phase of broadband expansion in the County. The implementation of the proposed design will take approximately 11 months to complete and will involve the installation of 10 points of presence (POP). This project will serve 4,000 homes across all five Supervisor Districts through the Equal Access Santa Cruz program, and provide needed internet resources to affordable housing projects and school neighborhoods. While not all locations have been selected, the first round will be mainly focused on some of the more rural or economically disadvantaged locations in the County.

Additional funding for broadband expansion will be available through state and federal grants in the coming months - and this could lead to new options in Rio Del Mar. The latest estimates show that the County is slated to receive about \$11 million in new middle mile funding for broadband expansion. As part of the state funding requirements, the County will be working on a new Broadband Master Plan that identifies locations with complete gaps, slow service or limited service. Rio Del Mar is one location that has been previously identified as an area with limited high-speed options and will be included in the Plan. While this doesn't necessarily guarantee expansion it does make the area qualify for funding as part of this new state investment. As of this writing, the exact date of the funding from the state isn't known but it's anticipated that the exact amount of funding and the parameters for how it can be spent will be known in the summer.

As always, I appreciate any feedback you may have on this (or any other County issue).

I'm maintaining regular updates on social media at www.facebook.com/supervisorfriend and you can always call me at 454-2200.

Rio Del Mar Beach Armoring Project

You might have missed what looked like a major construction project wrapping around the restroom building at Rio Del Mar Beach earlier this year and wondered what the heck was going on.

It's called a "Living Shoreline Project" intended to prevent erosion, a chronic problem here and all along our coastline. Locals are acutely aware of how Aptos Creek meanders after storms and heavy surfs, sometimes moving dangerously close to the restroom buildings and homes along Beach Drive. At times one can see a giant lake that lingers for a few days and then disappears. These are natural phenomena but threaten homes and buildings if we don't take preventative measures.



State Parks Analyst Schott Rohlf provided additional detail in a Mercury News article:

APTOS – After decades of flooding and erosion issues at Rio del Mar Beach, scientists and engineers are working to protect the popular shoreline's restroom and parking lot, amidst increasingly strong winter storm events projected to hit the California Coast.

But rather than piling rocks or building a wall, California State Parks staff and local scientists are trying something different. Soon a living shoreline will be erected where standing water often collects at the beach after rains and strong swells.

Rio del Mar and adjacent low-lying coastal communities have a long-running history with floods. This winter's atmospheric river storms and tsunami once again threatened beach infrastructure and oceanfront homes. Scientists have linked such extreme weather events to climate change and predict they will become more frequent and intense in the future.

"This has been a recurring emergency and this project should take away that emergency risk to the sewer line and the restroom," said David Revell, a coastal geologist with Integral Consulting.

Just using driftwood and sand found at the state beach, the team is engineering a dune to armor critical infrastructure at Rio del Mar. Revell came up with the idea – something he says is a novel approach in California.

Linda Hitchcock, a senior park and recreation specialist for State Parks, echoed Revell.

"It's kind of neat – it's a natural project – we're just moving around wood that's already here," Hitchcock said. "This is the first time we've done something like this."

This week, Revell directed a bulldozer operator precisely where to drag and placed 3,000 pound driftwood logs, while dozens of passersby gathered to watch the engineering symphony. Eventually, about 2,500 cubic yards of sand will be dumped atop the structure — an amount that could fill 12 railcars.

The team is currently building the backbone of what will become a 16-foot-tall sand dune. But Revell explained that once completed, tourists and residents alike won't have their beach visit dragged down by an obstructed view.

"We want people to still see the ocean – we're not trying to hide it — that was a really important design characteristic we considered," Revell said.

The project is estimated to cost \$178,000, according to State Parks Analyst Scott Rohlf, and is scheduled to be completed by next winter.

The dune will have three components, explained Rohlf; a driftwood frame, which will create the shape of a sand mound, a cobble berm to deflect wave run up and a native plant covering, to further secure the structure.

"The plants and their roots will anchor it from the top, the wood anchors it from the bottom and the cobble berm protects it from Aptos Creek as well as wave action," Rohlf said.

The localized flooding and erosion is triggered by the interaction between storm surge, high waves or strong swells and Aptos Creek flows, said Rohlf. Such forces are so strong that a sliver of the restroom's foundation has already been exposed — a result of water and sand eating away at the concrete over the years.

The historic rains that hit Santa Cruz County last December put Revell's idea to the test, said Hitchcock. As night fell, Hitchcock, Revell and others quickly built a makeshift driftwood structure, partially to investigate if even a slap-dash version of the project would be effective.

"What was really cool is that it held during the atmospheric river – it was like 'wow this works'," Hitchcock said.

The project, said former Santa Cruz Mayor Justin Cummings, who also works part time with Integral Consulting, is an attempt to work with the local environment, rather than against it.

"In general as human beings we've tried to prevent mother nature from doing things ... this project is taking what would occur naturally and facilitating restoration, versus building something artificial like a seawall," Cummings said.

<https://www.mercurynews.com/2022/02/22/living-shoreline-project-launches-at-rio-del-mar-beach/>

General Clement B. Harts Shore Trail gets a facelift and a resting bench.

By Mark Johannessen

Since late 2017 I began working with Santa Cruz County Parks Department on how to install a resting bench on the General Clement B. Harts Shore (please see the attached map), which is controlled by Santa Cruz County. This trail is not very long, but it does have a bit of an elevation change – about 50' or so, and I also requested a resting bench be placed about halfway up the trail to allow more accessibility. In addition, the trail was in disrepair in places and was not particularly safe for folks with limited physical abilities. Storms in 2018-2020 further degraded the trail, washing out many areas making the trail even more difficult to navigate.

After about 3 years and with pandemic funding, Parks and Public Works created a trail improvement plan and implementation program. Public Works started by constructing a draining ditch to catch the main runoff from the surrounding area, which was tested with the rains we had earlier this year. Parks was able to engage an AmeriCorps team and the Santa Cruz Land Trust, which has trail-building experience, for the actual construction of the trail and to address erosion issues and path improvements and rail installation. The trail is now virtually complete, except for the resting bench which is to be installed as part of this project.



Update on the Mural Project for the wall of Flats Bistro, aka Eco Wall Aptos

The first good bit of news is that the empty lot next to the Flats Bistro is now open to the public and equipped with picnic tables. Thank you, Jeanne Harrison!

The next project to look forward to is the mural being planned for the wall adjacent to the lot.

World-renowned muralist Taylor Reinhold, the local mastermind behind Sea Walls Santa Cruz, will be transforming the prominent north wall of Flats Bistro in Spring 2022.

You can see some of Taylor's other murals at his website: <https://taylorreinhold.com/>

This mural will showcase Aptos' interconnected woodland, riparian, & coastal ecosystems and highlight the importance of conservation & stewardship. The adjoining open space is owned by County Parks and envisioned as an interim park called Esplanade Flats Patio.

Within view of Rio Del Mar State Beach, this location is also an endpoint of the Camino del Rio route, which is the active transportation corridor connecting Aptos Village & Rio Flats.

Camino del Rio primarily routes along Spreckels Dr & Moosehead Dr, and completely lacks accommodations for pedestrians & cyclists. NRG is advocating for a complete street redevelopment plan of Camino del Rio. Also, as its name implies, this path follows the course of Aptos Creek, the lifeblood of our interconnected ecosystems.



Rio Flats Mural, Esplanade Flats Patio, Camino del Rio - none of this can happen without your support.

County Park Friends is sponsoring NRG's fundraising efforts for this project. Help us make it happen!

Donations can be made through this website: <https://www.aptosnrg.org/donations>

Meet your RDMIA Board of Directors, two are new!

We want to let our members learn a little about the directors and will use this space to introduce ourselves:

Meet your Directors!

Linda Neuman, new to the Board:

My name is Linda Neuman. My husband Paul, our dog Hans and I moved to Rio Del Mar from San Jose in October 2019. I just love the Rio Del Mar community and wanted to become more active and make a difference, that is why I became a member and now a Board Member of RDMIA. We are proud parents of a daughter who is thriving as a Social Worker in Las Vegas. After 35 years as a Legal Professional, I am retired and enjoying the slower pace of life here in Rio Del Mar. Christine DeLapp

Christine DeLapp:

I have been an Aptos resident for over 30 years. Retired from a 37 year career in education, I now enjoy the many pleasures of life at the beach, hiking, golfing, and birdwatching to name a few. Since retiring I have been a docent at Seacliff State Beach and a volunteer at the library. Life is good.

Sam Nazzal:

I traveled 10 time zones before my fifth birthday. My mom, sister, brother and I were removed from the ship in Brendisi because the Italian officials were convinced our papers were forged. Then we were put on a train to catch the same ship in Napoli when they realized their error. Arrived to Ellis Island in one of the coldest March winters ever. Fast forward graduated from St Ignatius High School in '64 and then San Jose State College and then became a commissioned officer in the US Navy Air as a pilot(a 90 day wonder Ensign). Then started working for Lockheed Martin after kicking around for a couple of year as a newly married couple. Now retired and after 25 years of being a part time resident of Rio Del Mar, I volunteered and got roped into becoming RDMIA's Treasurer. Yay. All in all the last 25 years have been pretty darn good.

Thanks

Sam

Barry Scott:

I work with schools and school districts to prepare young people for careers in the energy and environment career sectors and this follows careers in architecture and education. My great uncle Sil Biancalana was the first dentist in Aptos, which is why I moved here after so many summers coming to our beaches for vacations, and this goes back to 1963. There's no place like home!

RDMIA Appreciates New Members and Renewals

Welcome to our new members and thank you for joining!



Thank You to those who have already paid their 2022 dues:

Current Board members:

- President: Dan Rothenbush president@rdmia.org
- Vice Pres/ Membership: Jerry Cannella vicepresident@rdmia.org
- Treasurer: Sam Nazzal treasurer@rdmia.org
- Secretary: Christina DeLapp secretary@rdmia.org
- Website / Social Media: Barry Scott website@rdmia.org
- Communications: Joseph Foster communications@rdmia.org
- NEW member: Patricia Perry
- NEW member: Linda Neuman

Your membership matters!. Renewal time is upon us for members to contribute for 2022. RDMIA is most grateful for our neighbors and friends who continue to support RDMIA's community interests.

Dues enable RDMIA to maintain area landscapes, improve local parks and engage in community interests. 2021 RDMIA highlights in the community;

- *Improved solar lighting*
- *Tree trimming for solar lighting enhancement*
- *Continued landscape care – renovated median landscapes*
- *Donation towards Hidden Beach Park playground Jett Ramsey Tribute*
- *Sgt. Damon Gutzwiller Heroes Fallen Fund*
- *Ongoing communication outreach*



Annual Membership

The Rio del Mar Improvement Association annual membership per household is \$30 by check or \$32

New Member Renewing Member

Referred by _____

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 3rd party.**

by PayPal (includes \$2 PayPal fee).

A \$500 Lifetime membership is also offered. And the BOD has approved the wording to read "LEGACY MEMBERSHIP" thus the membership will pass on your membership to a resident family member.

Ways To Join

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

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

Please Email my newsletter to save printing and postage

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



One the Beach in Rio Del Mar

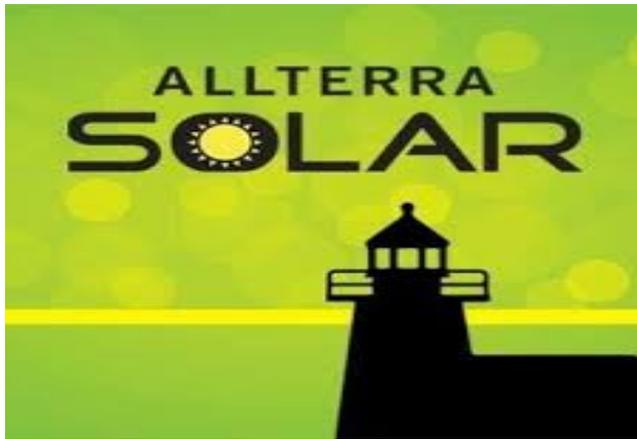
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RDMIA is extending our gratitude to the many sponsors who grace our newsletter with their advertisements. It is a win win for all. The community learns of our supportive businesses in the area and the community will, hopefully, return the favor by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

Due to these uncertain times during Covid, RDMIA has worked with our business partners to promote their companies gratis in this newsletter in hopes the community would support them and help our return to normal life. We look forward to a continued partnership!

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

