

RIO DEL MAR Improvement Association

(www.rdmia.org)



RDMIA Semi-Annual Spring Meeting:
Tuesday, 6:30 pm OCTOBER 12th

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

Fall 2021 RDMIA Newsletter Highlights:

- Zach Friend, 2nd District Supervisor, Community Updates
- Flats Drainage Project Update
- CERT Community Update
- Our Semi-Annual Meeting after many months.
- Hidden Beach Play Area update

Fall 2021 Newsletter



The Semi-Annual meeting of the RDMIA will be held on October 12 at 7:00 PM at the Rio Sands Hotel meeting room. Doors will open at 6:30 PM. Speakers will include Zach Friend, County Supervisor, Kieran Kelly, his assistant, and Kent Elder, Assistant Director of Public Works along with Robert Tidmore, Project Manager, Capital Projects of Public Works, will provide an update on rail trail segments 10, 11 and 12.

Information also will be presented on proposed plans for a mural and the status of the empty lots on the esplanade. Due to Covid-19 restrictions seating will be limited to 48 attendees and determined via a lottery. Requests for in person attendance must be made by October 9. Those selected will be notified, Masks are recommended. Those unable to reserve a seat or who wish to attend can participate via a virtual meeting. Please RSVP to rdmia1941@gmail.com.

Use the link below to join the meeting.

Meeting URL: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/5301902743>

Meeting ID: 530 190 2743

No password needed.



Community Updates

From County Supervisor Zach Friend

An Update on the Redistricting Process and the Drainage Improvement Project

Redistricting efforts are underway across the state that could potentially adjust the boundaries of various elective offices. Locally, the process to review and potentially redraw local supervisorial districts is underway and there are a number of ways that the community can get involved. The following will provide an overview of the state and local redistricting process and ways you can participate.

What is redistricting?

Redistricting occurs once-in-a-decade and it's the process of redrawing boundaries for various elective offices. The process follows the U.S. Census. Due to the pandemic, the process of completing and certifying the data from the U.S. Census was delayed, which in turn has impacted the timeline for the redistricting process (reducing the time available to review and potentially redraw districts). In California, based on information from the U.S. Census, a Citizens Redistricting Commission (created by voter initiative) redraws the boundaries of California's Congressional, State Senate, State Assembly, and State Board of Equalization districts. Locally, counties undertake a process of redrawing the districts for the five County Supervisor districts. The goal is to create districts that, as required by the Voting Rights Act of 1965 and California Elections Code, are substantially equal in population and ensures contiguity, communities of interest, integrity of cities and more.

Communities of interest are defined by the Elections Code as a population that share common social or economic interests that should be included within one supervisorial district to ensure effective and fair representation.

What is the local process?

The Elections Code requires robust outreach and opportunity for public input. The County established a Redistricting Advisory Committee, consisting of one representative from each supervisorial district, to help guide the redistricting process. For our district, the representative is Rio Del Mar resident Michael Watkins. Recently, the Board of Supervisors approved an outreach plan with a proposed schedule to meet the compressed timeline for submitting new districts. Per the Election Code, this outreach plan includes extensive outreach to underrepresented and non-English speaking communities. The County plans to work via social and traditional media, community-based organizations and more to ensure that the community is aware of the process and has an opportunity to participate.

According to the census data, the Santa Cruz County has a population of 270,861 - which means the goal for each district would be a population target of 54,172. Currently, for example, the population of the 2nd District (which includes Aptos, Corralitos, La Selva and parts of Capitola and Watsonville) has a population of 54,637. Some districts, such as the 5th supervisorial district in the San Lorenzo Valley and other parts of the northern portion of the county have populations under the target currently.

How can you get involved?

If you're interested in providing input into the process there will be public hearings at the Board of Supervisors in the evening on October 26th (with location to be confirmed soon), and during the day on November 9th and 16th.

The County has a website dedicated to this process at www.santacruzcounty.us/Redistricting2021 where details of these meetings and ways to provide input can be found.

Rio Del Mar Drainage Project

At the September 14th meeting of the Board of Supervisors, the Board certified the vote results associated with the Rio Del Mar Flats Benefit Assessment District (the drainage improvement project). The vote failed with approximately 61 percent voting against the assessment and 39 percent voting in favor of the assessment. Due to the majority of votes opposing the assessment, the formation of the Rio Del Mar Flats Benefit Assessment District will not proceed. As was noted during the community meetings in advance of the vote and during the Board of Supervisors' meeting, without formation of the assessment district there is insufficient funding to operate and maintain the pump station and associated facilities. Consequently, the construction funds County staff spent years to secure will be returned to the granting agencies as the drainage improvement project will not be built. There are no planned back up projects or additional grant funding in hand for any other drainage improvement project in the Rio Flats.

Thank you to the Rio Del Mar Improvement Association for hosting outreach sessions over the years on this project both in person at the Rio Sands Hotel and for partnering with the County for virtual outreach during the pandemic. Thank you also to everyone that participated in the meetings and also that took the time to vote in the assessment.

For your safety, please do not drive or pass through flooded areas. With climate change, it is anticipated that the frequency and severity of flooding in the Rio Flats may increase. During the winter/spring rains for non-emergency related road flooding or access issues please call the Public Works Dispatch number at 477-3999. If there is an emergency situation please do not hesitate to call 9-1-1.

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 831-454-2200.

NEIGHBORHOOD NOTES:

Items to be aware of and to pass onto others that effect our daily lives.

<https://www.audubon.org/news/why-leashing-dogs-easy-way-protect-birds-and-their-chicks>

<https://www.sanluisobispo.com/news/local/community/cambrian/cambrian-opinion/article135718848.html>



Being prepared in this very uncertain world...

So here we are... After more than a year of life under COVID-driven, ever-changing, directives. It's been a shocking reminder that life can change on a dime... just as it did for so many of our friends and neighbors. The fact is, we live in a county that purportedly has more geological hazards per square mile than any other in the State of California and one plagued by serious power and water infrastructure issues. Every time your lights flicker... or you lose power for a period of time... ask yourself:

- 1) Am I prepared to “go it alone” and sustain myself, my family, and the pets in my house for an extended period of time? And,
- 2) Once I have determined that things are “OK” in my house, do I have the training, equipment, and organizational support to help some of my less fortunate neighbors in the immediate aftermath of a major disaster.

This is where the Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) concept comes in. CERT provides both the training and the organizational support to help individuals prepare for, and respond to, anticipated disruptions and potential hazards following a disaster. CERT is about readiness, people helping people, rescuer safety, and the credo: Do the greatest good for the greatest number.

Some of your neighbors have been hard at work to create a Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) in our Rio Del Mar Flats area and to date captains have been identified for six of the twelve designated “neighborhoods.” We’ve acquired MURS hand-held radios and we conduct monthly radio checks. We’ve even recruited local licensed ham radio operators for our Rio Flats team to maintain lines of communication with the outside world should the need arise. And we’re not alone. Thirteen other CERT teams have been established in neighboring communities. But if you think we’re fully covered in the event of a major disaster, think again. We desperately need your help.

We highly encourage you to participate in the free CERT training program. If nothing more, this training WILL prepare you to respond to the next crisis that could be right around the corner. Know how to operate and properly aim a fire extinguisher? Turn off a gas line? Fashion a temporary splint? Pack an adequate “bug out” bag? You will, after you complete this training.

The training is a two-step process with a 12-hour online course of instruction and 16 hours of hands-on training. The online portion may be taken in any order and at your own pace and convenience. Following successful completion of the online segment, you advance to a 16-hour hands-on training with CERT instructors on procedures necessary to receive your CERT credential. This will all be done using COVID-19 precautions. You will receive a free backpack containing personal protective gear (PPE) at the beginning of the second training. Find out more at www.santacruzcountycert.org. You'll be glad you did!

Once you have completed the training, consider joining our Rio Flats team. We currently have six neighborhoods in need of a captain: #2 (bordered by Treasure Island, Moosehead, and Spreckels), #4 (bordered by Winfield Way, Aptos Beach, Moosehead, and Marina), #6 (bordered by Aptos Beach, Venetian Rd., and Stephen), #8 (bordered by Stephen, Marina, Aptos Beach, and Venetian Rd.), #9 (Lake Court neighborhood), and #12 (Glen Drive neighborhood).

You might also decide to join with us during a CERT activation in response to a disaster— like your CERT-trained neighbors did in response to the CZU fire... first at the evacuation center that was established at the County Fairgrounds in Watsonville and later at the Fire Resource Recovery Center established at Kaiser Permanente Stadium (Warriors Arena) on Front Street in Santa Cruz.

Questions or interested in helping us with this work?

Please contact us: Lori Nielsen lorinielsen2000@yahoo.com

Rob & Dondi Gaskill beachnit@pacbell.net

Jerry Cannella jerry@aljers.com

Chuck Melton chasmelton@hotmail.com

Tim Barroca timbarroca@msn.com

Bill & Betsy Hare billhare48@gmail.com

Wanda Bagnall wcbagnall@aol.com

Rita Slobodian r_slobodian@yahoo.com

Hidden Beach Park Playground Breaks Ground

by Katharine Minott

SC County Parks & Recreation Commissioner, 2nd District

A celebratory ground-breaking at Hidden Beach County Park on September 15, 2021 marked the official start of a major renovation of the park's playground and the installation of a permanent bathroom.

Tucked away at the end of Cliff Drive in Rio del Mar, Hidden Beach County Park is a well-loved and well-used 1.5-acre gem of a neighborhood park with an easy, paved path to the beach. Several years ago, the Rio del Mar Improvement Association and park neighbors began urging the County's Parks Department to complete the decades-old Master Plan.

During community design meetings the highest-ranking preferences for park improvements were the installation of a permanent bathroom, updating the playground area with new equipment and a tiered drinking fountain with a ground-level faucet for dogs.

What also grew out of the community meetings was the commitment the existing play equipment would be replaced with playground structures that broaden outdoor recreation accessibility to all kids and adults with varying physical and emotional challenges.

To successfully finance the playground project, an innovative public-private fundraising partnership formed between the non-profit County Park Friends, local community leaders like realtor Frank DeBernardo and the "DeBernardo Team," SC County and the SC County Parks Department.

Most poignantly, the "DeBernardo Team and other members of our community raised significant donations honoring the life of Jett Ramsay, a five-year old youngster who loved playing at Hidden Beach Park with his family and who succumbed to brain cancer in April 2020. The new playground will be dedicated to Jett.

To complete the park's permanent bathroom, County Park Friends is accepting donations. County Park Friends is a 501(c)(3) organization and your donations are tax deductible

Tax ID #77-0209249

To make an on-line tax-deductible donation:

<https://countyparkfriends.app.neoncrm.com/np/clients/countyparkfriends/donation.jsp>.

Write: Hidden Beach Park Restroom

Donations by check may also be sent to:

County Park Friends

870 17th Ave., Suite 2

Santa Cruz, CA 95062

Subject Line: Hidden Beach Park Restroom



Community Contact Information

Noise Santa Cruz
County Sheriff 24-hour non-emergency: 831-471-1121

Abandoned Vehicle Santa Cruz www.scsheriff.com/Home/AbandonedVehicles.aspx
Please provide: County Sheriff
831-454-3139

- Location and Color
- Make and model
- License plate number
- How long it has been since it was last moved, if known

- Car Blocking the street
- Parking in a no-parking zone
- Non-injury accidents

California Highway Patrol 831-796-2160

Animal Control/Barking www.scanimalshelter.org/complaint_process
Santa Cruz Anima Shelter

Code Compliance Santa Cruz County www.sccoplanning.com/PlanningHome/CodeCompliance.aspx
Planning Department

Graffiti Removal Graffiti Hotline (800) 526-1185



To report some of the above and other neighborhood concerns, use the Citizen Connect App: sccappstore.co.santa-cruz.ca.us Includes Pothole Reporting

Rio Del Mar Community Contacts

Santa Cruz 2nd District Supervisor, 831-454-2200
County Offices Zach Friend

Central File Fire District Fire Chief, 831-685-6690

Sheriff's Sub-Station Sergeant Jordan Brownie 831-454-7765
Aptos Center Center

Seacliff State Beach Park Office 831-685-6442 or 831-685-6500

Aptos Chamber of Commerce

Executive Directors: John and Karen Hibble 831-688-1467

RDMIA Appreciates New Members and Renewals

Welcome to our new members and thank you for joining!

New Members

Christie & Emmanuel Diaz

Maureen Memeth



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

Peter Neuwald, Jay Hughes, Doug & Diane Deaver, Judi & Denny Reid, Melanie Fretas, Penny Hanna, Dan & James Dole, Chris DeLapp, James Williams, Beth Porter, Lori Giuliani

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
- Directors: 2 Openings

We continue to seek those members who might be interested in volunteering and sharing your expertise on the Board. Please contact the Board at info@rdmia.org or email Director above.

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. 2020 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

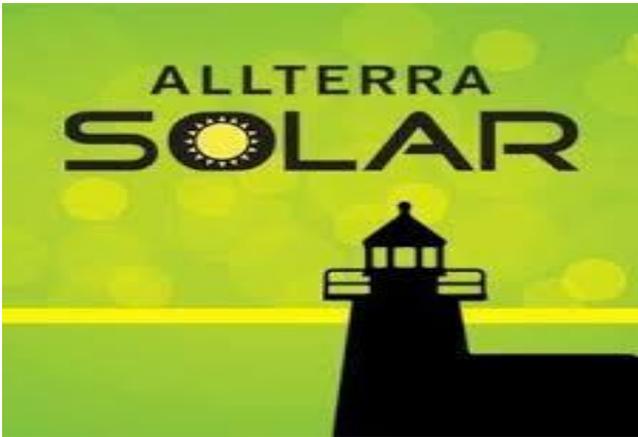
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Thursday - Monday
3:00 to close
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www.caferioapto.com





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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

