

# Rio del Mar Improvement Association Spring 2020 Newsletter

## Spring 2020 RDMIA Newsletter Highlights:

- Members are the Heart of the Association
- Zach Friend, 2<sup>nd</sup> District Supervisor, Community Updates
- COVID 19 County Information
- CERT Community Response
- Board Member Spotlight



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*RDMIA Bi-Annual community meeting was postponed due to the shelter-in-place order. We look forward to coming together in October 2020. Tentative meeting date is Wednesday October 21<sup>st</sup>.*

*Stay safe, stay home, stay healthy*

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# 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 Members are the Heart of the Association

***Thank you to all our members who continue to support RDMIA's mission to beautify, advocate and are a part of community engagement and a HUGE round of thanks to the 19 LIFETIME membership families!***

***RDMIA recognizes these are challenging and uncertain times, without a clear sense of what tomorrow or the following weeks will look like. As a community there have been many acts of kindness, cooperation and smiles as we navigate this crisis.***

***If you can afford to support RDMIA again this year the association is most grateful.***



## Ways to Join:

Complete [online membership form](#) and pay via PayPal (\$30 + \$2 = \$32) using Donate button

Complete [online membership form](#) and mail check payable to RDMIA (\$30)

[Print out membership form](#) and complete along with check payable to RDMIA (\$30) and mail



Forms and fees should be mailed to RDMIA, P.O. Box 274, Aptos, CA 95001 – 0274.

## ***Enhancing our neighborhoods through beautification, advocacy and engagement***



RDMIA continues the work of maintaining landscapes throughout Rio del Mar [Learn more](#)



RDMIA hosts community public meetings during the year with local officials sharing current events and news to keep you informed. [Learn more](#)



RDMIA volunteers continue to dedicate time and engagement to Save Our Shores beach clean-ups, Hidden Beach Park improvements, and our neighborhoods. [Learn more](#)

## Community Updates from Zach Friend

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



***Supervisor Friend provided this community update for publication on March 3, 2020 prior to the Shelter -In- Place order issued for Santa Cruz County.***

### ***Updates on Common County Questions***

As we move thru Spring, I want to provide an update on some issues of interest to Rio Del Mar. Specifically, updates on local parks and library projects, school safety work and more. As always, if you have any questions or concerns please do feel free to reach out to me. You can call me at 454-2200.

### ***Major Upgrades Coming to Aptos and La Selva Libraries***

As part of the voter-approved Measure S, varying funding is available to update libraries across the county. Recently, we secured additional funding to fully address the needs at the Aptos Branch. Specifically, the Board of Supervisors approved an additional \$1.45 million from the Library Fund for the Aptos Branch, which ensures that this location, used by many as a regional branch in our district, will have the funds necessary (even with the increased construction costs over the last year) to do the upgrades necessary to meet the public visioning process. The County and the Library held multiple community meetings to discuss options for the library in 2019 and as a result of those discussions has developed ideas for the branch. We are pleased that work is expected to begin this year, bringing a new community-visioned library to our community.

Additionally, work has officially begun on the La Selva Library Branch. Overall, \$1.7 million has been allocated to this project, which will be completed this year. The La Selva Library acts as a community hub for many in Rio Del Mar, Seascapes and La Selva and the design concept also came from significant community input and partnership with the non-profit Friends of the La Selva Beach Library. Both of these branches will be receiving the first significant upgrades in over a generation.

### ***School Pedestrian Safety Improvements at Rio Del Mar Elementary***

Using Transportation Development Act (TDA) funds we have secured just under \$100,000 for pedestrian improvements near Rio Del Mar Elementary to fill a sidewalk gap and provide curb extension and crosswalk realignment (to reduce crossing distance) on Pinehurst and Greenbrier. Additionally, this year \$475,000 was set aside for bike lane maintenance from TDA funds for the county including areas throughout our district, with a focus in school areas. If there are areas in Rio Del Mar, you'd like to see receive some bike lane maintenance please let me know. The last TDA funding element for our district is for \$30,000 for the Street Smarts/Vision Zero campaign. You may have seen some of these educational signs on lights throughout Santa Cruz and this will provide funding to bring these educational materials to our district. I've received some

requests to have some of this signage near Rio Del Mar Elementary as well, so I have put in that request with Public Works.

### ***Park Upgrades at Hidden Beach and Seacliff Village Park***

Some significant improvements are occurring at two Aptos area parks with potentially more planned in the south county. Specifically, at Seacliff Village Park and Hidden Beach Park in Rio Del Mar. Thank you to RDMIA for co-hosting our outreach on Hidden Beach Park improvements a few months ago. The feedback we received was invaluable and is shaping the design of the park.

Specifically, we heard the importance to ensure that features are available for multiple age groups so families with kids of different ages can use the park as well as adding greater accessibility to the park so kids of all abilities can enjoy Hidden Beach Park. We also received feedback about specific features (such as swinging options) that were important. We anticipate the project in Hidden Beach to begin soon.

For kids in Rio Del Mar that like to skate there is now a new close option. Our office, working with local philanthropists, County Parks and the non-profit Friends of Santa Cruz County Parks secured significant contributions to begin construction on Phase 2 of Seacliff Village Park. This new phase has already provided a new (and popular!) skate feature as well as shade structures, restrooms and more to the park.

As always, I appreciate hearing your thoughts on roads, parks, libraries or any other issues of interest. Feel free to visit me in my office hours or call me at 454.2200

## **Latest County COVID-19 Updates**

Many in our community have been severely impacted by both the health and economic conditions caused by the virus. With community members losing their jobs, businesses seeing declining revenue and tenants and renters unable to pay rent, we know it is also difficult to meet your basic needs – and many have been contacting me with questions on ways to get assistance. We want to help.

- What resources are available to you?
- How does the shelter-in-place order apply to a number of sectors?

Here are answers to some of the most common questions that have been coming into my office in the last week.

### ***Where can I get the most reliable local data and info on COVID?***

The County Health website now has a significant amount of data (updated daily) for you to be informed about local data and resources on COVID-19 including: local demographic data of cases, a breakdown of where the cases are occurring, the total number of cases and tests, resources for providers and residents, a county-by-county comparison, info on the shelter-in-place order and much more. **Visit [www.santacruzhealth.org/coronavirus](http://www.santacruzhealth.org/coronavirus) to learn more.**

### ***I have a business and I've lost a most of my revenue and need a loan. Where can I apply?***

The County's Economic Development Department has created a special webpage for businesses with information on how to apply for Small Business Association (SBA) loans, California IBANK loans, as well as tax extensions and payment relief from local utilities, and the California Franchise Tax Board. This information can be found at [www.sccvitality.org](http://www.sccvitality.org) (select COVID-19 Guidance and Resources for Businesses). Additionally, they

are hosting regular webinars on these topics. The Small Business Development Center at Cabrillo (SBDC) is also offering help in preparing applications to the SBA and others. You can visit their website at <https://www.cabrillo.edu/services/extension/sbdc.html> for contact info.

***I lost my job – where I can I find information on unemployment or funding available to me?***

The State of California Employment Development Department is working to expedite unemployment claims for lost work, a reduction in hours, for those acting as caregivers or that have become sick with COVID-19 and are unable to work. <https://www.edd.ca.gov> has information on how to file for these and other circumstances.

***I've noticed that vacation rentals and homeshares still seem to be operating as usual. Are they allowed to be renting?***

Under the Governor's order, all non-essential travel is prohibited. Therefore, local vacation rentals, homeshares, hotels and other similar lodging shall only be used for essential functions or purposes as defined by the State. For example, some vacation rentals are being used to house local and out-of-town health care workers and first responders. However, leisure travel is prohibited. Violations could lead to revocation of the owner's vacation rental permit. ***The Sheriff's Office has dedicated a team to outreach and enforcement of the shelter-in-place order and you can call the non-emergency line at to report potential violations. 471-1121***

***Are parks still open? It seems some people aren't adhering to social distancing at beaches and some parks.***

The Health Officer ordered all parks and beaches closed for a week during Easter and Spring Break. This is a dynamic situation and it's possible that if social distancing principals aren't adhered to it becomes likely additional restrictions will be placed on some (or all) functions at State and County parks and beaches. Some locations, like the skate park in Seacliff, were problematic and needed to remain closed after the one-week order where as some of the open space park areas haven't had issues. The Health Officer is working to balance the overall health and safety of the community with the health (emotional and physical) aspects of using the outdoors. She is looking at ways where low risk activities can be resumed in the coming month but where higher risk and/or emerging higher risk activities will be restricted. It's a very difficult balance to meet and one that elicits strong, differing, opinions from the community.

***Is there a place where I can speak with someone to get questions answered?***

***Yes. The County has a live, staffed hotline - open every day between the hours of 8 am and 6 pm. Call (831) 454-4242.***

***What other ways can I get information?***

***You can call 211 or text "COVID19" to 211211. I'm also maintaining regular updates on social media at [www.facebook.com/supervisorfriend](http://www.facebook.com/supervisorfriend) and during the shelter-in-place order I'm hosting weekly tele-townhalls on various issues on Tuesday nights from 6-7 pm. The call-in information for the town halls is 454-2222 with the Meeting ID: 145384#.***

## COVID 19 News Press Release

County Communications Officer Jason Hoppin issued this Press Release requiring the use of face coverings:  
Contact phone number (831) 454-3401

### HEALTH OFFICER TO ISSUE FACE COVERINGS ORDER Santa Cruz County, CA

Santa Cruz County Health Officer Dr. Gail Newel is preparing a new order requiring patrons and staff at essential businesses to wear face coverings to help reduce the spread of COVID-19.

To be issued this week, the order will follow new requirements in place throughout much of the Bay Area and is intended to further slow the spread of novel coronavirus. The order impacts public, commercial and governmental spaces where face-to-face interactions may pose a risk of transmission, including grocery stores, health care offices, restaurant pickup counters, public transit, essential government offices and more. "We are making great progress in flattening the curve and preventing the spread of COVID-19," Dr. Newel said. "However, we now know that COVID-19 can be transmitted by infected patients for days before they are symptomatic. These measures are intended to protect our essential workers and each other, and I urge everyone to follow this order closely."

Businesses must take reasonable measures, such as posting signs, to remind visitors about face coverings, and may not serve customers who do not observe the order. Workers do not need to face coverings if they are alone in a personal office but must put them on when others enter. Residents are encouraged to continue to practice safe physical distancing when they go out to exercise or for recreation. Individuals engaged on outdoor recreation and who are able to practice distancing (joggers, cyclists, hikers, etc.) are not required to wear face coverings, but should move to avoid close proximity with passers-by.

The order also includes customers of public transit (including while waiting at transit stops), rideshare services, and passengers in private automobiles who are not members of the same household. The order does not require children 12 and younger to wear face coverings. Children two years old or younger must not wear them due to risk of suffocation. When donning and doffing face coverings, be careful not to touch your eyes, nose or mouth. Face coverings should be washed regularly.

Face coverings can be:

- Homemade masks
- Bandanas
- Neck gaiters
- T-shirts
- Towels or other cloth materials

Face coverings should:

- Fit snugly against the side of the face
- Be secured with ties or ear loops
- Include multiple layers of fabric
- Allow for breathing without restriction

Due to ongoing shortages of personal protective equipment, the public is discouraged from using medical-grade masks, such as N95 masks or surgical masks. Those supplies should be reserved for health care workers and first responders. If you have medical-grade masks and would like to donate them, go to [www.santacruzcounty.us/ppedonate](http://www.santacruzcounty.us/ppedonate).

The County's Shelter-in-Place order remains in effect through May 3. For local information on COVID-19, go to [www.santacruzhealth.org/coronavirus](http://www.santacruzhealth.org/coronavirus), call 211 or text "COVID19" to 211211. Residents may also call (831) 454-4242 between the hours of 8 a.m. and 6 p.m., seven days a week. For guides on homemade face coverings, please see <http://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/diy-cloth-face-coverings.html>

## CERT News COVID-19: A Wake-up Call for Our Community?

It's breath-taking to see how quickly our norms and routines can be upended. One of my favorite columnists, Mitch Alborn of the Detroit Free Press (and author of [Tuesdays with Morrie](#)) recently described the pandemic we are experiencing in this way: *It is a human wildfire and each of us feels like a dry leaf, praying the wind blows in the other direction. The flames of this COVID-19 virus are ripping through every institution we have in America, schools, sports, businesses, religious services. Many have never felt so vulnerable. We are tucking into our lives, wary of gatherings, wary of neighbors, wary of things that were just, what — two weeks ago? — symbols of our human spirit: handshakes, high-fives, hugs, kisses.*

Disasters can do that. Life can turn on a dime and as near-perfect as our little beachside community may be, it pays to remember that we live in a county that purportedly has more geological hazards per square mile than any other in the State of California.

Given the odds that something COULD happen in Rio Del Mar and that help from over-extended professional first-responders could be delayed, there are two questions that each of us should probably consider:

- 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.

That's 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*. The CERT training component was developed by the Los Angeles Fire Department following its study of the Mexico City earthquake.

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 recently acquired MURS hand-held radios that have been assigned to neighborhood captains and we've recruited local licensed ham radio operators for our Rio Flats team to maintain lines of communication with the outside world should the need arise.

We 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).

We hope that you'll participate in future neighborhood meetings and we highly encourage you to participate in the next **free CERT Aptos training course**. Find out more at [www.santacruzcountycert.org](http://www.santacruzcountycert.org). You'll be glad you did!

Questions or interested in helping us with this work? We are especially interested in connecting with those of you who are interested in serving as a neighborhood captain in one of the six neighborhoods noted above. Please contact us:

Lori Nielsen	<a href="mailto:lorinielsen2000@yahoo.com">lorinielsen2000@yahoo.com</a>
Eve Majure	<a href="mailto:evemajure@earthlink.net">evemajure@earthlink.net</a>
Rob & Dondi Gaskill	<a href="mailto:beachnit@pacbell.net">beachnit@pacbell.net</a>
Jerry Canella	<a href="mailto:jerry@aljers.com">jerry@aljers.com</a>
Chuck Melton	<a href="mailto:chasmelton@hotmail.com">chasmelton@hotmail.com</a>
Tim Barroca	<a href="mailto:timbarroca@msn.com">timbarroca@msn.com</a>





## Save Our Shores and RDMIA

RDMIA continues to support Save Our Shores efforts. Currently there are no formal beach clean-ups, so we rely on each of us being good stewards of our beaches and that everyone remembers to Pack your Trash.



Looking forward, the Annual Coastal Clean-up day is scheduled for **Saturday, September 26<sup>th</sup>**. Mark your calendar, and stay tuned for more information when large groups can work together again.

For more details and status about future beach clean-ups please visit Save Our Shores at <https://saveourshores.org/annualcoastalcleanup/> and <https://saveourshores.org/eventscalendar/>

***RDMIA is excited to bring the community together to be a part of the solution to ocean pollution!***

## RDMIA Appreciates New Members and Renewals

***Welcome to our new members and thank you for your support!***

Gary Bloom  
Derek & Nhu'y Leffers

Susan & John Graulty



***Acknowledging and Appreciating our Life Time members***

Vicki Bates  
Joel Busch  
Jerry & Alice Cannella  
Carolyn Chiesa  
Herbert Finkelman & Edda Tusinac  
Jerry & Jan Finney  
Bill & Nancy Jackson  
Bill Jensen  
Suzanne Jensen

Julie Lambert  
Lorin Leyendre  
Kirk Lingenfelter  
Shanna McCord  
Michael & Ellen Mellon  
Barbara Robinson  
Peter & Donna Townsend  
Mark & Deborah Vanderwoude  
Athena Wolfe

***Visit [RDMIA.org](http://RDMIA.org) to [renew or join today!](#)***

## Board Member Outreach and Volunteer Call Out

*The Association welcomes members that are interested in volunteering time and expertise to fulfill the mission to “enhance our neighborhood through beautification, advocacy and engagement.”*

The RDMIA Board meets once a month on the first Wednesday. In these unusual times, the Board is practicing social distancing and meets via Zoom. Most work is completed by committee thru email communications with updates provided at the Board meetings. All are welcome to attend Board meetings and become involved in whatever capacity you choose. Please contact any Board member to discuss.

We especially need your skills in these areas:



- Secretary
- Social media
- Landscape coordinator
- Project coordinator

**Welcome to Sam Nazzal** – our newest Board member, serving as RDMIA Treasurer.

Sam and his wife and three daughters have enjoyed their Rio del Mar beach home since 1997 fulfilling a lifelong dream. Sam retired in 2014 from Lockheed Martin as a Test Data analyst after 40 years. They spend time between their home in Willow Glen and Rio del Mar.

Sam and his family have embarked on many adventures in retirement with travel, fishing, scuba diving (in the Galapagos, no less) and golf. Beachcombing is a favorite pastime and he is still questioning why he took up golf. Prior to retirement, Sam worked for Lockheed Missile and Space Company since 1975, and earned degrees at San Jose State College and University.

Sam has volunteered and given back to his community over the past 23 years. RDMIA is grateful he chose the association to continue his engagement and provide valuable insight and collaboration.

### Current Board members:

- President: Dan Rothenbush [president@rdmia.org](mailto:president@rdmia.org)
- Vice Pres: Jerry Canella [vicepresident@rdmia.org](mailto:vicepresident@rdmia.org)
- Treasurer: Sam Nazzal [treasurer@rdmia.org](mailto:treasurer@rdmia.org)
- Secretary: **open** [secretary@rdmia.org](mailto:secretary@rdmia.org)
- Director: Donna Townsend [info@rdmia.org](mailto:info@rdmia.org)
- Director: Peter Townsend [website@rdmia.org](mailto:website@rdmia.org)

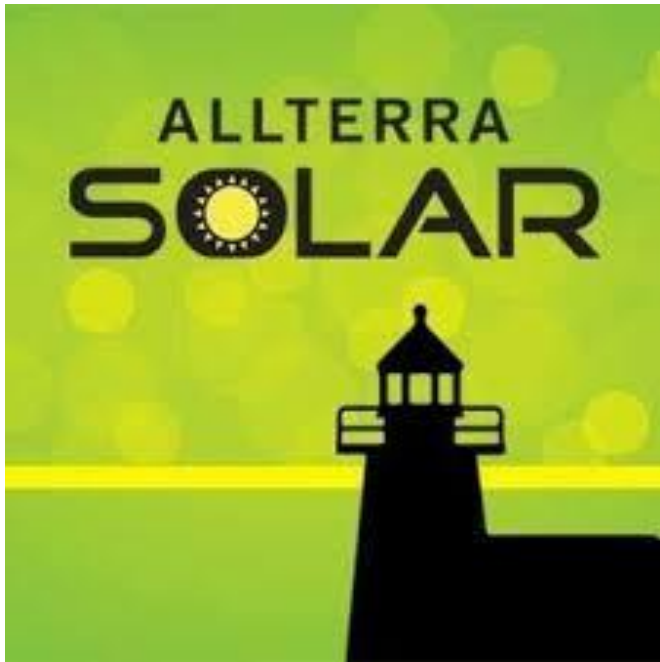


### Member Spotlight

RDMIA is grateful to our wonderful member, Joyce Burnett who found two of the missing letters from the Rio del Mar Beach Welcome sign while weeding in and around the roundabout. Thank you, Joyce for your watchful eye and helping maintain the roundabout landscape. Appreciation to Jerry Cannella who repaired the sign, reattached the letters and gave them a fresh coat of paint. Jerry also refurbished the Welcome sign letters on Rio del Mar Boulevard.

Community engagement makes a difference!

Thank You to Our Sponsors!



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# Rio del Mar Improvement Association

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