

# Rio del Mar Improvement Association Winter 2019 Newsletter

## Winter 2019 RDMIA Newsletter Highlights:

- Your Membership Matters!
- Zach Friend, 2<sup>nd</sup> District Supervisor, Community updates
- Introducing Sergeant Jordan Brownlee
- Hidden Beach Park Celebration
- Save Our Shores Adopt-A-Beach Partnership
- RDMIA News and Events



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### ***Save the Date – Members & Public Invited***

*Rio del Mar Improvement Association  
Semi-Annual Meeting*

*Please RSVP to [info@rdmia.org](mailto:info@rdmia.org)  
Wednesday, April 17th – 6:30 – 8pm  
Rio Sands Hotel, 116 Aptos Beach Dr., Aptos*

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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

# Your Membership Matters!

***START THE NEW YEAR OFF RIGHT and RENEW.***

***Your dues support RDMIA's mission to beautify, advocate and be engaged in our community.***

**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.**

**Thank you!**

*Many thanks for your continued support if your 2019 dues have been paid.*



*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



## County Updates and Answering Your Questions

We appreciate working with the Rio Del Mar Improvement Association (RDMIA) to address your needs. Over the last few months a set of questions have come in to RDMIA on the best way to report certain issues and learn more about proposed projects (such as road work). This article will work to address the questions that have been passed along from RDMIA members to our office. As always, feel free to reach out to me with additional questions.

### Reporting Abandoned Vehicles

Occasionally we receive requests for the best way to report an abandoned vehicle. A vehicle that is either clearly abandoned or has been parked on a public street for more than 72 hours may be reported to the Sheriff's Office. There are a few very easy ways to do it. First, you can download the County's free mobile app (Citizen Connect) and report it through the app. More details on how to download the app are later in this article. Second, you can do it directly from the Sheriff's Office website at [www.scsheriff.com](http://www.scsheriff.com) - under the "Self Help" link you will see an option for "Abandoned Vehicles" - there is a simple form to fill out. Lastly, you can call 454-7602. You should be prepared to provide the following information: location, color, make and model, license plate number and how long it has been since it was last moved (if known).

### Road Maintenance

With the winter storms a number of issues arise. From downed trees, to clogged culverts to potholes. There are a few ways to report these issues. If it's an emergency, always call 911. If it's not an emergency, but still needs attention, you can report it through the County's free mobile app or via the Public Works dispatch line at 477-3999.

The mobile app allows you to report potholes (including sending photos so Public Works can prioritize repairs), street signs that have fallen down or need replacing, tree trimming/brush clearing needs and much more. The Citizen Connect app is available from the Apple app store or via Google play for Droid platforms and can be found on the County's site as well at <https://sccappstore.co.santa-cruz.ca.us>.

With the passage of Measure D a collection of roads are scheduled for repair in Rio Del Mar. A complete list of roads (and the County's 5 year Plan for Measure D) can be found on the County's Public Works' website. But here is a basic overview: Martin Drive from Aptos Beach Drive to Cliff. Cliff Drive (entire length is planned). Elva from Martin to Cliff, Spreckles from Treasure Island to Aptos Beach, Bennett from Venetian to Moosehead. Hainline from Moosehead to Venetian, Stephen from Moosehead to Aptos Beach and Stephen from Aptos Beach to Venetian. Additionally, Venetian from Stephen to Aptos Beach Drive.

### Beach Island Walkway

Recently, the County placed up Coastal Access signs, and removed fencing and a wall, along the Beach Drive walkway letting the public know about their ability to use the public access pathway on the coastal side of the homes on Beach Drive. For the last few years, we have been working to facilitate the reopening of this important public coastal asset.

For many years the pathway has been unfortunately blocked (fenced) for private use by homeowners that live in the immediately adjacent Beach Island residences. However, the 37-foot-wide walk (as it was originally dedicated) is a public space. Over time, the walk has narrowed with erosion but still provides a safer, and more accessible, pathway for residents interested in recreating along the coast between Seacliff and Rio Del Mar.

The County, working in partnership with the Coastal Commission, worked with the homeowners and their legal representation for the last few years to try to find a solution that would allow the homeowners to maintain some of their encroachments and lease those encroachments back as a way to fund walkway improvements. Over time, the goal was to widen the walkway to a larger and even better walkway in partnership with the homeowners. Unfortunately, a small group of the owners elected to litigate in an attempt to keep this public location in private ownership.

As many have noted that have accessed Beach Drive, specifically along the narrow inland pathway from the Esplanade to just past the Beach Island, the access is unsafe and inadequate as it currently exists especially for those using wheelchairs, strollers or with other mobility issues.

It's narrow, often has obstructions (such as garbage cans) and doesn't provide proper access. However, reopening the public walkway on the coastal side provides a width that would meet mobility and safety needs. Ultimately, reestablishing this public accessway allows for coastal side access from Seacliff to Rio Del Mar in a safe, accessible and beautiful way.



As you can see from the historical photos, the original dedication created a coastal access (used here both as a road and path) on the coastal side of Beach Island. Some homeowners have applied for encroachment permits over the years acknowledging the encroachment into a County right-of-way. The County has continued to recognize its ownership of this 37-foot-wide walk throughout the years in letters to residents, permit language and other means. The Coastal Commission as well, has recognized that this is a publicly owned space, in letters it has sent to homeowners and through their permit process.

We've received a lot of positive feedback from community members that have been using the public walkway. While a lawsuit is unfortunate, it is all too common. It doesn't change the underlying fact that this is a public path and will continue to be a public walkway moving forward - and we appreciate the opportunity to ensure that the community has full access to its public space.

As always, if you have any additional questions or concerns feel free to give me a call at 454-2200.



## Introducing Sergeant Jordan Brownlee

Greetings Rio Del Mar residents! My name is Jordan Brownlee and I have been recently assigned as the Sheriff's Office Community Policing Sergeant for the Aptos area. I have worked in law enforcement for the past 10 years, the last 8 of which have been for the Santa Cruz County Sheriff's Office.

I grew up in Santa Cruz County (even attending Rio Del Mar Elementary) and am grateful to live and work in such a dynamic and beautiful area. The new Aptos Service Center is scheduled to open in spring 2019 and will be in the Aptos Village (near the New Leaf grocery store).

There will be 16 Sheriff's Civilian Volunteers working out of the center. These volunteers help staff the center and provide volunteer patrol services (vacation checks, park and school checks, etc.) in the area. Also, deputies assigned to the Aptos area, will be utilizing the center to meet with citizens, conduct investigations, and write reports. Until the new center opens, I have open hours with the public that will be updated on our website:

<http://www.scsheriff.com/Home/MyCommunity/Aptos.aspx>.



You may also see set up in the Mobile Aptos Service Center (big white van!) in various Aptos locations, or riding a patrol bicycle in the area. Please say hello!

I may be reached via email at [jordan.brownlee@santacruzcounty.us](mailto:jordan.brownlee@santacruzcounty.us). As a reminder, call 911 for any emergency. To reach a deputy at any time for a non-emergency issue, utilize the Sheriff's Office Non-Emergency Dispatch number, (831)471-1121. I look forward to seeing you around Rio Del Mar!

Respectfully, Sergeant Jordan Brownlee

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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 member form.*

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## RDMIA and SC County Parks Hidden Beach Park Celebrated Success on Saturday, 12/01/18



***"Coming together is a beginning; keeping together is progress; working together is success"***

– Edward Everett Halle



Despite rainy skies, RDMIA members and Santa Cruz County Parks officials, along with their beloved pets rallied to celebrate Hidden Beach Park improvements and the newly installed water faucet.

RDMIA is grateful for our supporters and members who helped make these improvements:

- **New water faucet with pet trough**
- **ADA-compliant Porta Potty**
- **Refinished picnic tables**
- **Entrance sign relocation and landscape**

Many thanks to Eric Sturm, SC County Parks Superintendent and Kate Minott, Friends of Santa Cruz Parks for attending in addition to our members. After time to connect with neighbors and friends, Eric shared details about the County Parks commitment for future Hidden Beach Park upgrades.

RDMIA and Santa Cruz County Parks will continue collaborating in the New Year on a capital campaign with matching dollars from the County Parks department. Stay tuned for more details as the fundraiser develops.



If you're interested in volunteering or donating now to this fundraiser, please contact Donna Townsend at [info@rdmia.org](mailto:info@rdmia.org).

"Rio del Mar Improvement Association's dedication to Hidden Beach Park is inspiring and the Santa Cruz County Parks Dept is grateful for the opportunity to partner in this common goal. The Department is confident that donations supporting the park improvements will make a difference in this site and in the larger community." – Jeff Gaffney, Santa Cruz County Parks Director

*Many thanks to Starbucks at Post Office Way, Safeway at Rancho del Mar Shopping Center and Aptos Feed & Pet Supply for refreshment donations supporting this event!*



## Save Our Shores and RDMIA Adopt-A-Beach



Rio del Mar Improvement Association remains committed to [Save Our Shores](#) and the Adopt-A-Beach program in 2019 and will continue to facilitate Hidden Beach clean-ups. RDMIA and our community acts to help keep Hidden Beach clean with many efforts to keep marine debris out of the ocean throughout the entire year!

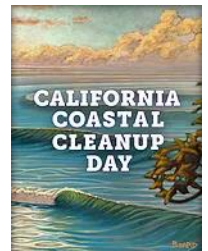
California's Adopt-a-Beach program provides people of all ages with an opportunity to learn more about and actively participate in the conservation of our precious marine resources. RDMIA is excited to bring the community together to be a part of the solution to ocean pollution!

Your membership dollars made it possible to donate \$100 to [Save Our Shores](#) in addition to everyone's ongoing volunteer energies. Many thanks!

***2019 Hidden Beach Clean Up Days with RDMIA and Save Our Shores. Beach cleanup events 9:00 – 11:00 am***

***Please join in for one or more clean up days in 2019:***

- Saturday, April 6th – join RDMIA after Spring Break to help clean up from the many visitors. Early Earth Day Effort
- Saturday, June 1st - post Memorial Day weekend traffic – there is sure to be a need to clean-up from locals and tourists alike
- Friday, July 5<sup>th</sup> - this is one of the dirtiest days for our local beaches, where over a thousand pounds of can be found at the edge of the Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary
- September 21<sup>st</sup> - Annual Coastal Cleanup Day - a statewide effort is the biggest and largest volunteer effort on the planet, where tons of trash are removed from the coastline every year.



RDMIA greets all volunteers at Hidden Beach park picnic tables to sign in, gather supplies and answer any questions. We encourage volunteers to bring their own gloves if possible. Rain cancels events.

## Pixie Deli and Good Eats



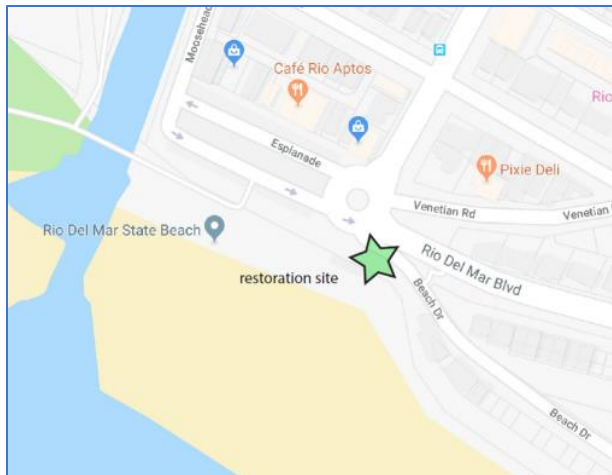
Pixie Deli is known for its laid-back friendly atmosphere. Many thanks to Nate Toker and his beautiful family for making the deli the go-to place while soaking up the beautiful views we call home. Recently ownership of the Pixie Deli changed but not the vibe. New owners, Dave Whiting and family were drawn to this opportunity because of it! We all wish Nate happy trails in retirement and welcome Dave to the neighborhood! Check out the cool [Pixie Deli and Good Eats](#) webcam [here](#) and stop by for a bite to eat next time you're at the Flats.



## Rio del Mar Promenade Restoration

Restoration is in progress under the stewardship of Groundswell Coastal Ecology at the Rio del Mar Promenade in partnership with the landowner California State Parks. Field work kicked off in early December 2018 with a team of 70 Soquel High students learning about and participating in hands on ecological restoration. Their work included surveying, invasive vegetation removal, and planting, and will be followed by maintenance.

The restoration is part of the Santa Cruz Living Shorelines project. This increases connectivity amongst the projects such as the Seabright Beach Coastal Enhancement Project. Seabright is one of the most successful projects where community, schools, and agencies worked to invest more than 10,000 volunteer hours in restoring over ½ mile of coastline. The work is producing positive change by making our coastline more resilient and a better place for people and nature is being made.



Groundswell Coastal Ecology has worked in Santa Cruz for over five years restoring ecosystems in the County using nature-based solutions. Their vision is for a coast where thriving natural ecosystems are connected to vibrant communities through hands-on stewardship. Partnerships with community, schools, land managers, private organizations, and governmental agencies being this to fruition.

RDMIA looks forward to collaborating with Groundswell Coastal Ecology should an opportunity arise. To learn more about Groundswell's work in Rio Del Mar and Santa Cruz visit [www.groundswellecology.org](http://www.groundswellecology.org). If you are interested in this project please contact [info@rdmia.org](mailto:info@rdmia.org).

Many thanks to Groundswell Coastal Ecology team for your commitment to the Rio del Mar promenade!



## News and Upcoming Events

### RDMIA Semiannual Spring Meeting – Save the Date



Wednesday, April 17<sup>th</sup> 6:30 - 8:00 pm  
Rio Sands Hotel, 116 Aptos Beach Dr., Aptos

Our meetings, open to members and the public, are an opportunity to learn more about current events and the status of ongoing projects. The association strives to bring relevant speakers and the community together for an open discussion about Rio del Mar. We appreciate all who participate and attend.

*Do you have an idea for a guest speaker or community topic that you want to discuss? Please share with RDMIA at [info@rdmia.org](mailto:info@rdmia.org) to coordinate for the upcoming Spring meeting. Thanks!*

## CERT News

Do you want to be prepared and competent to handle disaster situations, at home and in your community?



Then you, your friends, and neighbors should advocate for CERT training!

Sharing CERT with your neighbors and friends will help your community become better prepared for disaster.

#### Basic Training Class schedule through June 2019

- Bonny Doon: Feb 21-Mar 16
- Live Oak: March 13-April 6
- Watsonville: May 1-June 1
- Felton: June 6-June 29

[Click here](#) for class information, and [click here to register](#).

#### **Important Message Regarding Your Training Registration: Don't be a No-Show!**

Recently we have had quite a few “no-shows” at training events. This causes issues regarding planning and supplies, but more importantly, CERT trainings are often limited to a specific number of participants. If you register and are unable to attend please let us know so *another person may have an opportunity to attend in your place and allow full training capacity.*

#### **Recertification**

[Click here](#) for more information on recertification requirements and guidelines.

#### **Team Training Calendar on Website**

Check out the new [Local Teams Calendar](#) for CERT Team meetings on the website. The Auxiliary's calendar of scheduled classes and continuing education is now shown to the right on the Local Teams calendar page. We hope this will limit the number of concurrent events.

## Allterra Solar Donation to RDMIA!



Local Solar Power

Let the Sunshine In - 2019 is the final year to receive the full **30% federal tax credit**. If you are considering solar, sign up now.

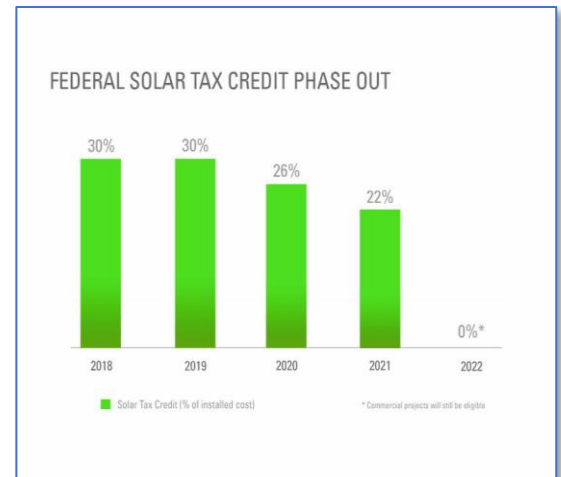
**If you go solar with Allterra Solar they will make a \$500 donation to Rio del Mar Improvement Association as part of their referral program!**

To get a free evaluation, [click here](#). To refer a friend or family member who could benefit from low cost renewable energy, [click here](#).

RDMIA welcomes this opportunity for donations to fund ongoing community projects.

Allterra Solar is a community partner and has provided service and support with solar panels at the Rio del Mar welcome sign on Rio del Mar Blvd.

If you have questions, you can call the Allterra Solar office at 831.425.2608.



## S.S. Palo Alto, known as the Cement Ship turns 100!

**Mark your calendar for the Centennial Celebration on Saturday, June 1, 2019 10:00am – 2:00 pm**

Our beloved and beleaguered icon of Aptos hits the century mark! Revisit the last 100 years through the eyes—portholes, if you prefer—of the S.S. Palo Alto with music, games, history talks, and more. Event is free; parking is \$10. For more information, please call (831) 685-6444. Visit [Friends of Santa Cruz Parks](#).



# RDMIA Appreciates New Members and Renewals



Welcome to our new members:

- Jon Fiorovich
- Joan Harrington-Trenbeth
- Susan & George Hurley
- Amy Huyck
- Rochelle Sjolseth
- Jody Tempel
- Antoinette Wagner

Many thanks to our members who have renewed for 2019 and 2020 and especially to our over 15 Lifetime Members. If you haven't paid your 2019 dues it's easy! 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."

Please contact any Board member to discuss. We especially need more resources in these areas:



- Treasurer
- Secretary
- Social media
- Landscape coordinator
- Project coordinator

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: open [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)

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).

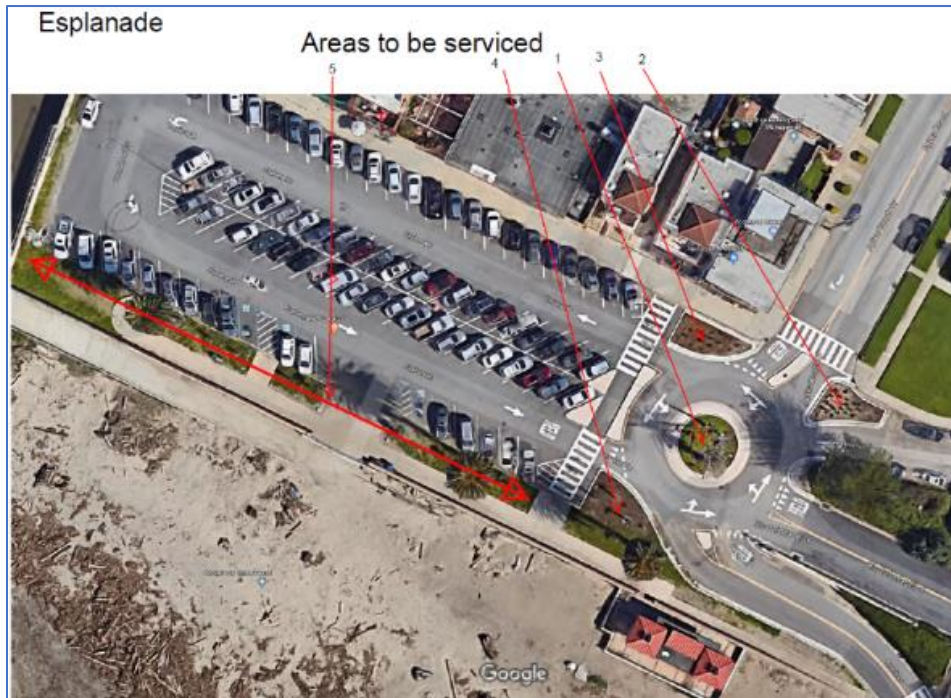
The Board of Directors welcomes your questions or comments. We would like to hear from you!



## Financial YTD Update

2018 Year end Cash Balance	
January beginning balance	\$10,666.40
Net change year-to-date	<u>1,553.05</u>
December ending balance	<u>\$12,219.05</u>

The Association is currently evaluating new landscape maintenance partners for all medians and Esplanade roundabout areas. RDMIA is committed to enhancing the appearance of these common areas as a 2019 goal.



Medians also maintained at  
Sumner and Rio del Mar Blvd.  
and Treasure Island Drive and  
Spreckels Drive



## The Mission

The Rio del Mar Improvement Association is a non-profit neighborhood organization with the mission to ***“enhance our neighborhood through beautification, advocacy 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

Your membership dues of only \$2.50 per month is an important investment for the Rio del Mar community and helps to keep it a special place to live.

Many thanks to our members and community partners for supporting Rio del Mar Improvement Association.





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