

Rio del Mar Improvement Association Fall 2018 Newsletter

Fall 2018 RDMIA Newsletter Highlights:

- Zach Friend, 2nd District Supervisor, Community updates
- Hidden Beach Park Improvements
- RDM Flats CERT Team
- Save Our Shores + Annual Coastal Cleanup recap
- RDMIA Bylaw Amendment member vote
- Board Member outreach



You are invited to attend – Members & Public

*Rio del Mar Improvement Association
Membership Meeting*

*Please RSVP to info@rdmia.org
Wednesday, October 17th – 6:30 – 8pm
Rio Sands Hotel, 116 Aptos Beach Dr., Aptos*



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 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

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.

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 and Save Our Shores Adopt-a-Beach Partnership

Annual Coastal Cleanup Recap



One thing you can't say about Hidden Beach anymore is that it's hidden.

The beach is popular amongst locals and is a tourist favorite. Unfortunately, not every visitor remembers to "pack their trash". Thankfully due to volunteers who have supported the Hidden Beach clean-up days over the years help keep the beach the jewel it is.

This was exceptionally true when volunteers of all ages spent their Saturday morning on September 15th volunteering for the CA Coastal Commission Annual Coastal Clean Up sponsored with Save Our Shores.

Many thanks to the 40+ volunteers who participated in the coastal cleanup event. A special shout out to Girl Scout Troop #10000 and to Boy Scout Troop #515 for their hard work collecting over 44 lbs. of trash and recyclable items. A lovely Sacramento area couple even adjusted their visit timing with Bayview neighbors to participate.

Annual Coastal Cleanup reports 2,800 volunteers picked up 7,000 lbs. of debris in 3 hours, spanning Davenport to Monterey. California beaches in total had 57,500 volunteers working to pick up over 500,000 tons of debris in that same time.

Save Our Shores and RDMIA have partnered in the Adopt A Beach program serving as Hidden Beach's caretaker, removing trash and debris on clean-up days, playing an integral role in conserving the natural beauty for many years. RDMIA appreciates long term member Fay Levinson for her stewardship as she leads the cleanups on behalf of RDMIA.



Keep up the good work and all volunteers are encouraged to join in a future clean-up day.

Community Updates from Zach Friend

2nd District County Supervisor



County Measures on the November Ballot

The November ballot will have two notable county items - a bond measure for affordable housing and a sales tax for the unincorporated area. I wanted to provide an overview of these items and welcome any additional questions you have.

Countywide Affordable Housing Bond

A diverse coalition of local business leaders, non-profits housing developers, agriculture business leaders, schools and community organizations (and more) worked for about two years in preparation for a possible affordable housing measure. At issue is the remarkable affordability challenge in our County, which ranks our County as one of the least affordable places in the world according to a recent international affordable housing study. With a median home price of over \$900,000 for a single-family residence homeownership is out of reach for the majority of Santa Cruz County residents.

According to the California Association of Realtors Traditional Housing Affordability Index, only about 15 percent of households can afford to purchase the median priced home. The rental housing market fares no better, with the rent for a two-bedroom apartment registering at around \$3,200.

High housing costs inhibit the sustainability of our community and of our workforce. Individuals and families are increasingly locked out of the local housing market and forced to take on increasingly long commutes to reach employment. High housing costs also exacerbate other challenges our community is confronting, including economic opportunity and vitality, traffic congestion, greenhouse gas generation and homelessness. In addition, when households spend more than half their incomes on housing costs, they have significantly less money to pay for other necessary expenses such as childcare, medical expenses, and food, as well as less discretionary income to spend at local businesses.

Housing costs, and the lack of available housing, is the number one issue that I hear about in my office. The proposed measure, which will require a 2/3 majority to pass, will issue bonds in an amount not to exceed \$140 million for affordable housing and reduction of homelessness. Bonds will be repaid through a property tax assessment of an estimated maximum levy of \$16.77 per \$100,000 of assessed valuation.

Supporters have noted that the purpose of the measure is to bring options and opportunities for our families and vulnerable populations. Specifically, the bond calls to provide a mixture of funding for affordable rental housing construction for local workers including farmworker and tourism industry employees and essential public servants like teachers, first responders, and health workers, via a mix of affordable rental and ownership opportunities. Additionally, it aims to provide interim shelter and permanent supportive housing for families and individuals experiencing homelessness and accessible, well-located housing for seniors on fixed or limited incomes, veterans, families, and people living with disabilities. It includes first time homebuyer loans and accessory dwelling unit construction assistance for local residents.

Unincorporated Area Sales Tax

A half-cent sales tax increase will be before County voters on the Nov. 6th ballot. If approved, sales taxes in the unincorporated area would increase to 9 percent - a level that is at or below sales taxes in the cities of Santa Cruz, Watsonville, Scotts Valley and Capitola. The tax would sunset after 12 years. The Board of Supervisors adopted a resolution of priorities for unmet needs throughout the county, outlining some of the places the new funding would be spent including in the areas of homelessness and behavioral health, upgrades to public parks facilities and the construction of new facilities, deferred maintenance on infrastructure and more. Those needs include new North and South County homeless shelters and navigation centers; public safety and behavioral health outreach; and completion of several new parks, including LEO's Haven, the County's first all-inclusive playground for children of all abilities.

Needs were identified during recent public budget hearings, including a focused deterrence initiative for homeless individuals suffering from mental health and substance use disorders but who are resistant to services. The Sheriff has advocated for addressing these individuals (that take up a disproportionate amount of resources) with a specific designated team.

The County is also leading local efforts to establish year-round, 24-hour homeless shelter and navigation centers in North and South County.

County staff also identified the need to fulfill the County's commitment to build LEO's Haven, a new playground with numerous accessible structures and features for children with disabilities.

Many parks within the Mid and South County areas would also receive upgrades and additional park maintenance and recreation staff would be added to provide oversight for parks facilities and increase youth and senior programs.

As always, I appreciate hearing your thoughts. If you have questions on these items feel free to call my office at 454-2200. – Zach Friend

Be Sure To Vote Tuesday, November 6th



Easy polling place lookup. Just enter your home address

<http://sccounty01.co.santa-cruz.ca.us/ElectionSites/PollingPlaceLookup>

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.





– Edward Everett Halle

- The new water faucet that includes an adult and child faucet along with a pet trough will be plumbed and installed. This new water source is designed to be non-clogging and appreciated by bipeds and their furry friends
- The ADA porta-potty will be finished and installed on the new cement pad. This larger porta potty-gives comfortability and maneuverability needed to accommodate all visitors
- Picnic tables and benches will be refurbished with board sanding and replacements. Won't this be great for all the gatherings that the community enjoys at the park!



Stay tuned for more details.

Community Emergency Response Team Update



Of all the truths in the world, one is almost guaranteed: people will come together in the wake of disaster. While disasters can happen to individuals, the more memorable disasters occur in communities where friends, neighbors, and families are affected. People will remember the destruction and the pain, but people will also remember how — after the event — their families and neighbors came together to overcome. This is what CERT is all about.

The Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) Program educates people about disaster preparedness for hazards that may affect their area. Earthquakes and wildfires are the disasters that most readily come to mind for Santa Cruz County, but they are not the only ones.

If there is a disaster, professional responders (fire, police) may not be immediately available to help. CERT trains people in basic emergency response skills, such as fire safety, light building search and rescue, team organization, and disaster emergency medical operations. Using this training, CERT members can assist others in their neighborhood or workplace until professional help arrives.



There are active CERT Teams spread throughout Santa Cruz County who encourage people to join their Team by completing a CERT basic training class. The website “SantaCruzCountyCERT.org” allows one to find out when a class is available and sign-up for a CERT Basic Class. The site also contains other useful information regarding helping you, your family, and neighbors prepare for possible disasters.

Please note CERT is a FEMA sponsored program available throughout the County. To find out if there is a program in your area go to www.FEMA.gov/CERT. Please visit the Santa Cruz CERT website for more information and complete details. www.santacruzcountycert.org/cert-training-classes.

Questions or interested in helping us with this work? Please contact any of the following CERT-trained neighborhood captains. We’re in this together!

Lori Nielsen lorinielsen2000@yahoo.com

Tim Barroca timbarroca@msn.com

Eve Majure evemajure@earthlink.net

Rob & Dondi Gaskill beachnit@pacbell.net

Jerry Canella jerry@aljers.com

JoAnn & Kathleen Sherwood doghaircafes@aol.com kathleensherwood12@gmail.com

Chuck Melton chasmelton@hotmail.com

Wanda Bagnall & Rita Slobodian wandacbagnall@gmail.com and r_slobodian@yahoo.com

News and Upcoming Events



RDMIA Semiannual Fall Meeting - You are Invited and Bring a Friend



Wednesday, October 17th 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.

Member By-Law Amendment Voting Notice

The following By-Law Amendment will be presented to the members for approval at the upcoming October 17th meeting. The amendment to the By Laws will include role of Treasurer to file State, Federal Filings.

The Treasurer shall file all required Federal and or State forms in a timely manner and report all filings to the Board of Directors. A listing of all required filings will be provided to the current board members and new board members to insure filings are submitted when required.

Current RDMIA By-Laws Section 8 describes the Treasurer Role as:

Section 8. Duties of Treasurer

The Treasurer shall receive and deposit all moneys due the Corporation and disburse the same as ordered and in the manner as determined by the Board of Directors. He shall keep an accurate record of all receipts and disbursements of the Corporation and render an account thereof to the members at the annual meeting together with periodic accounts as requested by the President or the Board of Directors.

For complete By-Laws please visit the RDMIA website under [About](#).



Welcome New RDMIA Member

Thank you, Stefano Carpin for joining and contributing to the community!
Many thanks to our over 200 members and their participation!



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
- Newsletter
- Social media
- Community outreach
- Landscape coordinator
- Membership coordinator
- Project coordinator

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. Current Board members:

President:	Dan Rothenbush	president@rdmia.org
Vice President:	Jerry Canella	vicepresident@rdmia.org
Treasurer:	open	treasurer@rdmia.org
Secretary:	open	secretary@rdmia.org

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 the Rio del Mar community helping to keep it a special place to live. The Board of Directors welcomes your questions or comments to info@rdmia.org. We would like to hear from you!

Financial

Sand Berm Enhancement Project Closure

In 2011 “The Rio del Mar Beach and Lagoon Conservancy” was formed by a group of homeowners on the ocean side of Beach Drive just south of the Esplanade to find a solution to the annual sand inundation formed at Rio del Mar Beach. The beach depression that becomes the lagoon is the result of three phenomena:

1. Natural build-up of the main sand berm that forms from wave action during the summer
2. Erosion from high flows of Aptos Creek (during the winter and spring) which become directed by the beach depression and exacerbate its extent and depth
3. Littoral Drift which causes any breach (Creek to Ocean) through the main sand berm to migrate towards Seascapes

When the creek is not flowing the depression provides an area that is filled with sea water during high tides and creates the stagnant lagoon with associated health concerns. State Parks post signs advising people not to enter the water. RDMIA was asked to assist in soliciting funds and hold the funds in an account to obtain a permit from the California Coastal Commission.

Conservancy Members met with the California Coastal Commission in September 2014 to review a draft application and were told that the submission fee would be \$3,500. At that time, RDMIA had collected \$2,500 in pledges and worked to obtain additional donations for the \$3,500 needed.

Additional permits and money would be required for other required permits and to fund an annual sand berm construction after the original permit was approved by the California Coastal Commission. The goal was to obtain a multi-year permit that would require only notifying the California State Parks to restore the sand berm. Unfortunately, the process did not come to fruition and the permits were never obtained. RDMIA held the funds as a fiduciary in a separate bank account on behalf of the conservancy pending the permit application in the future.

In the Spring of 2018 the RDMIA Board of Directors investigated the status of this project. Outreach was made to key conservancy members learning that nothing was being done on the completion of the sand berm application permit process. RDMIA then contacted all parties that donated to the fund with a request to release their monies for other community projects or refunded. \$3,000 of the conservancy funds have been granted to RDMIA for future projects. These funds have been transferred into the RDMIA general bank account.

Next steps – Do you have an idea for a community project that RDMIA can support and help facilitate? These funds were intended to make a difference in our neighborhoods and RDMIA would very much like to utilize them in a special way. Your ideas and thoughts are very important to repurposing these donations. Please send your suggestions to info@rdmia.org. All input is appreciated!

Financial YTD Update

The Organization continues with a healthy financial footing and is tracking closely to the 2018 budget forecast described in the previous newsletter. Our largest variance is the unexpected \$3,000 revenue from closing out the Sand Berm project account (described above).

2018 Cash Balance

January beginning balance	\$10,666.40
Net change year-to-date	<u>2,755.10</u>
September ending balance	<u>\$13,421.50</u>

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