



Palomar Park Perspectives

SEMI-ANNUAL PUBLICATION OF THE PALOMAR PROPERTY OWNERS

A HIDDEN PIECE OF HISTORY by Lindy Sherwood

Picture accordions playing, kids climbing aboard fire engines, BBQs sizzling, Fourth of July parties, neighborhood bazaars, raffles, a garden club, and spaghetti feeds that brought everyone together. Palomar Park was built on camaraderie—on people helping people. At the heart of it all? The volunteers and the fire station that sparked it to life.

In January 2025, after 28 years of living on Belle Roche Court, I unexpectedly found myself on the Palomar Park Board. I was told that meetings were held at the "fire station." Fire station? Who knew there was an old fire station in Palomar Park? Curious, I made my way up the winding road and found what looked like a large garage. Stepping inside, I felt like I had traveled back in time. The space was overflowing with historic photographs, antique fire helmets, old newspaper articles, relics, and general curios—enough to fill a museum. There was too much to take in all at once. I knew I had to return and learn more about this hidden gem and the stories it held.

The People Who Built It

Rich Landi, a fellow board member and the building's owner, graciously agreed to meet and share the history. Joining us was Dan Petelin, the community's unofficial historian. Having lived in Palomar Park for 77 years, Dan more than earned that title. Rich, who moved here in 1976, was quickly swept up in community service and became a volunteer firefighter.

As Rich and Dan shared their memories, their deep pride and nostalgia were palpable. Listening to their stories and looking around the room, I was transported to a time when life felt simpler, and neighbors relied on each other in ways we don't see as often today.

The Birth of the Volunteer Fire Department

The Palomar Park Volunteer Fire Department was formed in 1972 out of necessity—the closest station was in Belmont. The original force of 55 volunteers included about seven women, a testament to the community's spirit.

In 1983, Rich became the Fire Chief. That same year, the county agreed to provide the department with an updated fire engine—but there was a catch. The new truck needed an enclosed station. With no other options, Rich and the Palomar Park Volunteer Fire Department members came together to build the fire station on his property.

With the equipment and fire trucks centralized, the station quickly became more than just a safety hub. It was the heart of the community—a gathering place, a symbol of unity, and a reminder of what a close-knit neighborhood could achieve.

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SPRING HAS SPRUNG

Now that mother nature has issued the onset of spring, it's your turn to spring into action and get your garden going. If you're tired of the same old garden, why not try some new designs, plants or installing some new garden features. It's always fun to have vegetables in your garden and it can be incredibly rewarding. Garden features, such as benches, bird baths and bird feeders provide lots of enjoyment. Creating a new design with hardscape and new planters is what gardening is all about.

If you have gophers, think about using metal containers or pots to plant vegetables.

Start seedlings in a warm window and prepare soil in flower beds with amendments.

Create a compost pile, and use the soil and worms to keep your plants and flower beds well fertilized.

Add a bench under a tree or shady place in your yard.

Add a bright, tall, beautiful pot that creates a pop of color, but no maintenance in your garden.

Create a beautiful crushed rock or flagstone path that leads to a secret place in your landscape.

Add a bird bath, and utilize an existing sprinkler to keep it filled.

Add a hummingbird feeder or suet feeder for other birds.

If you have a strong helper, think about adding some large attractive rocks in unsprinkled areas.

Do not plant or add irrigation under Oak trees. Leave a natural area within your landscape.

Add native plants, especially varieties that pollinators like, or which form berries or tasty seed pods for birds.

Don't overplant, and use a few of the same plants in your flower beds for the most color impact.

Most important, enjoy your garden. Pick up a garden magazine to spark some design ideas.

Ladera Garden Center in Portola Valley, Yerba Buena and Bongards Nurseries in Half Moon Bay are wonderful resources for healthy native plants, and beautiful pots. The Birder's Garden in San Carlos is a local favorite for many.



FIRE STATION continued from page 1

A Legacy That Lives On

After 28 years of service, the Palomar Park Volunteer Fire Department disbanded in 2000. Palomar Park however remains a special, home to people who cherish both their community and its rural charm.

What will happen to the fire station's collection of artifacts? Eventually, these treasures will likely be donated to the San Mateo County Historical Museum in downtown Redwood City. In the meantime, the Palomar Park Association is considering hosting open houses for longtime residents and newcomers eager to explore this hidden piece of local history.

Want to see more? Check out the YouTube video on the Palomar Park web site at www.palomarpark.org "Palomar Park A Look Back" for a pictorial history of our unique neighborhood.



DAY OF THE DOG

Join us on Sunday, April 26th to celebrate the wonderful dogs of Palomar Park with a group walk into Eaton Park. We will have light refreshments for the owners and a special treat and gift for the dogs. Please wear comfortable and appropriate shoes and bring a suitable leash for your dog. The hike should take approximately 45 minutes. We will all meet at Loma Ct. to start the hike.

DATE: 4/27 Sun
WHERE: Loma Ct.
TIME: 10:00AM



NEIGHBORHOOD CHIPPING JUNE 10th

Once again we will have a free neighborhood chipping event. Please leave your brush, (cut ends facing the road), and a contractor will come by on the designated day and chip them. This program is to assist residents to create defensible space around their homes and property for wildfire prevention.

- Cut tree branches within 10ft. from your roof
- Remove dead wood from bushes around your property
- Remove brush directly adjacent to your home/windows
- Remove Cypress, Pampas Grass, Juniper, French Broom

MAILBOX MAINTENANCE

Is your mailbox looking tired or run down? How about the roadside name board on your street? Is your name missing or are you new to Palomar Park and would like your name listed?



Contact us at: PalomarNews@gmail.com if you have an issue or maintenance request or go to www.palomarpark.org

HEY MAN...STAY IN YOUR LANE!

Yes- our roads are narrow. Yes- our roads are winding, but that doesn't mean you don't need to stay in your lane. Contractors and service/delivery people are usually in oversized vehicles and need to take extra caution when navigating our roads. Getting run off the road because a driver is not in their lane and driving fast is dangerous! If you have contractors or service providers coming to your home, remind them to drive carefully. Confirm they are NOT bringing oversized vehicles that could break tree limbs or get stuck on our narrow and winding roads. A contractor who is careless while driving is likely not the kind of conscientious individual you want working on your house or property.



GARDEN CLUB

The Palomar Park Garden Club invites interested residents to join them for their next adventure or potluck lunch. If interested in joining please email Gillian Chao at gillianchao@gmail.com with the subject line Palomar Garden Club to get on the mailing list.

PETS IN NEED



The Redwood City location of Pets In Need is running low on pet food donations. This no kill shelter is critical in our area to assist with placing animals into their permanent homes. Please consider donating extra pet food and/or treats to this wonderful non-profit. Deliveries are accepted at 871 5th Ave. Redwood City. You can also check out their wish list on Amazon or even consider a tax deductible monetary donation.

RECIPE CORNER by David Nieh

Grilled Romaine - makes 6 servings

Rinse and dry the romaine, cut in half long ways, brush with olive oil. Sprinkle with sea salt. Place directly on medium heat grill. Cook lightly until char marks are visible. Remove and allow to cool slightly. In a bowl, mix yogurt, olive oil, lemon juice, vinegar and mustard. Whisk until smooth. Drizzle dressing over the romaine hearts. Top with cherry heirloom tomatoes, lardons, pomegranate seeds, and freshly cracked pepper.

3 Heads Romaine hearts

12 Grilled cherry heirloom tomatoes (halved)

2 Tablespoons Lardons & 2 Tablespoons Pomegranate

2 Tablespoons whole milk Greek yogurt

2 Tablespoons avocado oil

1 Tablespoon Lemon juice

Drizzle of Extra virgin Olive oil

1 Tablespoon red or white wine vinegar

1/4 teaspoon mustard

Sea salt and Pepper

LOCAL BEES AND SPRING HONEY

The Palomar Park bees are working on a wonderful spring honey crop this year. Keep planting those pollinator plants for our Palomar Park bees to enjoy. Send in to PPO your favorite honey recipe.

\$12 for 1lb (plastic or glass jar)

To place an order contact:
Denise Enea-Charlebois
650 740-9883 or
decharlebois1@gmail.com



**Profits go to Animal Welfare organizations.*

EVACUATION.....KNOW YOUR ZONE

Residents can find an evacuation map showing all the exit routes out of Palomar Park on our website: www.palomarpark.org. It is your responsibility to know all the routes and become familiar with them. In the event of a wildfire, "Know your evacuation zone" Genasys Protect is the SMC evacuation system. The County is divided into different evacuation zones. Palomar Park's zone is **SC-E008**. To learn more go to: <https://protect.genasys.com/>

CONSTRUCTION REGS= NO SUNDAYS

The LEGAL hours of construction in Unincorporated San Mateo County are Mon.- Fri 7:00am - 6:00pm and Sat 9:00am - 5:00pm. **No contractor construction is allowed on Sundays or holidays.** Also, there are hefty fines in SMC for not having a permit for your project. Permits are required for most improvements to your home including: Fences, water heaters, replacing decks, replacing windows, driveway replacements, roofs, etc.

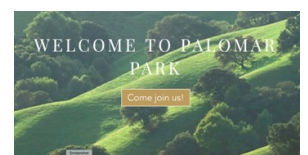
If you have a question for the Planning or Building Department, you can call: 650 599-7311 or email cleung@smcgov.org



PALOMAR PARK WEBSITE

Help contribute to our Palomar Park website; www.palomarpark.org. Do you have a picture or something related to Palomar Park that would be great for the website? The Board manages the website and we try to have useful online forms and current information for our residents.

If you have something, please contact us at:
PalomarNews@gmail.com



IT TAKES A THIEF

We are sorry to report that there has been some recent mail theft in Palomar Park. Some residents recently received a letter from the US Postal service stating an individual had been arrested, and had in their possession mail from a few Palomar Park residents. We are not sure what the status of the case is and if the individual arrested is being prosecuted or not. To be cautious, here are some tips to keep you safe from mail theft, and credit card fraud.

*Remember, if you see something strange or out of place say something.

- *Don't use credit cards at gas pumps if it looks like the credit card pad was tampered with.*
- *Don't leave mail inside your mailbox in the evening.*
- *Utilize the blue US mail boxes for outgoing mail.*
- *Be cautious using debit cards as they are the #1 source of bank fraud.*
- *Double-check recipient information when conducting wire transfers. Talk to the recipient on the telephone to confirm all information.*
- *Don't use public wifi to conduct banking or financial transactions.*
- *Don't fall victim to telephone bank/credit card fraud. A reputable institution will send you a letter, provide a mailing address and telephone number for verification purposes.*

ICE CREAM SOCIAL

Indulge in the fourth annual Palomar Park ice cream social hosted by Bob and Kat Bedbury.

June 21st

1:00PM to 4:00PM

Clifford School upper parking lot

In case you miss the postcard, please consider this your personal invitation. Come enjoy a scoop, (or two), of Mr. Softee's finest flavors and celebrate the spirit of Palomar Park.

Thanks Bob and Kat for hosting this special event.

"I scream you scream we all scream for ice cream"



FUN FACTS

- Palomar Park was originally called Rattlesnake Hill (you can guess why).
- The neighborhood once had six underground bars, and people loved coming here to socialize!

PPO ANNUAL MEMBER DUES

Please renew your annual 2025 Palomar Park Owner's membership. We depend on member dues to repair our community mailboxes, support the annual chipper program, fund the annual picnic and other beneficial projects for Palomar Park and our residents. Your \$75 dues check goes a long way.

You can pay online:

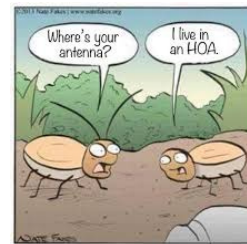
www.palomarpark.org

or mail a check to: **PPO**

419 Palomar Dr.

Palomar Park

CA 94062



SUGGESTIONS WELCOME

The PPO Board is always looking for suggestions from our residents. If you have an idea or suggestion you think the Board can help with to make Palomar Park an even better place, please drop us a line.

PalomarNews@gmail.com



WE NEED YOUR EMAIL ADDRESS

PPO would like to have all of our residents' email addresses so that we may deliver important emergency notifications, meeting dates and agendas as well as a digital copy of our newsletter. You can be assured that your email address will be kept confidential. Email us at: PalomarNews@gmail.com

PPO BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Palomar Park is a remarkable place for remarkable people. The PPO Board works hard to keep you informed, improve Palomar Park, be good stewards and maintain the rural attributes of our community. There is currently one vacant seat on the Board if you would like to serve.

PRESIDENT - BOB BEDBURY

VICE PRESIDENT - DENISE ENEA-CHARLEBOIS

SECRETARY- LEXI BAILEY

TREASURER - LEXI BAILEY

BOARD MEMBER HUGO LOURO

BOARD MEMBER - CHRIS CROW

BOARD MEMBER - RICH LANDI

BOARD MEMBER - DAVID NIEH

BOARD MEMBER - LINDY SHERWOOD

CONTACT US AT:

PalomarNews@gmail.com if you have a question for the Board or if you are interested in serving.

www.palomarpark.org