

# Palomar Park Perspectives

SEMI-ANNUAL PUBLICATION OF THE PALOMAR PROPERTY OWNERS

## EARLY PALOMAR PARK by Daniel Petelin

South Palomar in the early 40's was a dirt road. There was only one house on upper Montalvo Rd. Pictured below is Mrs. Romandor, her mother and daughter Linda driving the loop. The jeep is parked in front of which is now 135 South Palomar, where the Louro family now live. Only 15 residents in the early 40's on the Hill. There were wide open spaces, no fences and plenty of expansive views.

## THE HILL HIT WITH ILLEGAL DUMPING

Seems these dumping bandits are all over SMC. You see piles of chips, garbage and dirt along the freeway, near the overpasses and other areas along the sides of roads. Clifford School received an unwelcome load of dirt and the Sheriff's office was notified. Also the empty parcel on the corner of upper Palomar and South Palomar was hit with a large pile of wood chips. If you see someone dumping on the side of our roads, or in an empty lot please stop and ask the person if they have authorization. Do they know the name of the owner, can they produce the telephone number. If not call the non emergency Sheriff telephone 650 363-4963 and ask for a deputy to respond. If you see something say something !



## PALOMAR PARK 2nd ANNUAL ICE CREAM SOCIAL

To all PALOMAR PARK Residents: It's time to leave the cold, windy, and rainy winter weather behind us at last! To kick off the approaching Summer, Bob & Kat Bedbury, your neighbors at 1040 Palomar Drive, are reprising the ice cream social they sponsored last year.

If you attended last year's event, you remember how much fun it was to gather together with family and friends, enjoy some delicious refreshments, and celebrate the arrival of warmer weather. If you missed it last year, be sure to join us this time around. Mr. Softee will be there to offer up your favorite flavors. Personal invitations were sent in the mail, but if you overlooked yours, please consider this your special invitation. Looking forward to seeing you for an afternoon of fun and good treats on Saturday, May 20th, 1-4pm at the Clifford School upper parking lot.

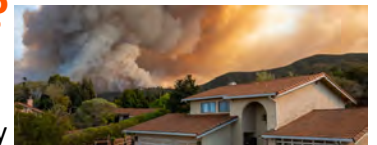


## WINTERS WRATH IN PALOMAR PARK

The winter of 2023 was one for the record books. Palomar Park sustained quite a bit of damage including numerous landslides, over saturated and failed septic systems, flooding and large tree failures. The fire department was called on several occasions to assist with flooding and emergency tree crews were out in force. These severe storms are a reminder of how fragile our hillside community is with our older and rural infrastructure.

## ARE YOU READY?

The San Mateo County Department of Emergency Services provides emergency notifications through SMC Alert. Once you subscribe you can choose to be notified by email, telephone or text of emergencies in various parts of the County. Don't you want to know if there is a wildfire, road closure or other potential life safety emergency near your home or office? Sign up now for SMC Alert at [www.smcgov.org/cwo/smc-alert](http://www.smcgov.org/cwo/smc-alert). Also check out the FEMA website on emergency preparedness at [www.ready.gov](http://www.ready.gov)



## DO YOUR DEFENSIBLE SPACE

We have all heard the saying "if you build it they will come". Well when it comes to wildfires the fire department will not be so eager to come and fight your house fire if your driveway is overgrown, your house has branches, dead vegetation and debris all around. It becomes a losing battle for the fire department with a house and property in that condition. If you want them to come you must do your defensible space. Defensible space is the law section 4291 of the Public Resources code. Also think about conducting some home hardening so your house is more ignition resistant.

- ✓ Clean out gutters of all debris
- ✓ Remove tree limbs within 10' of chimney or roof
- ✓ Remove tall bushes from under your windows
- ✓ Mow annual grass & dead vegetation within 100' of your structures
- ✓ Clear your driveway of overhanging vegetation. Clearance should be maintained at 13'6" vertical and a minimum of 12' horizontal or the entire paved width of the driveway
- ✓ Trim brush away from fire hydrant
- ✓ Remove firewood and combustible debris from under your deck
- ✓ Replace wood shake roofs with composition, metal or tile
- ✓ Replace old redwood decks with an ignition resistant decking material such as Timbertech AZEK
- ✓ Replace foundation & attic vents with ember resistant vents, i.e. Vulcan or Brandguard.
- ✓ Remove fire prone plants such as scotch broom, Pampas grass, acacia, diseased pine trees, cypress, palm trees.
- ✓ Do not allow vines or brush to grown on or underneath your trees. This vegetation can catch fire and travel into the tops of the trees

**DO YOUR PART AND BE WILDFIRE SMART!**

## WELCOME TO THE HILL



Margaret Lorber, 130 Cervantes



Jeremy & Jennifer Williams, 1021 Palomar

## SPRING HAS FINALLY SPRUNG

What a winter we have endured. Now that it's over it is time to spring into action and get your yard and garden in tip top shape. Most of us here have selected Palomar Park as our home because we love nature, the outdoors and the rural native landscape. Make your property the perfect natural paradise. Here are some tips to help you decide what to do:

- > Plant only natives. Non native plants often need lots of water and will crowd out native plants that pollinators, birds and other wildlife depend on.
- > Dig out the soil and leaf debris that has accumulated around the base of the trunks of your oaks. Dig carefully until you can see the base of the trunk. Do not water, plant, or place rocks around your oaks. Make sure no drainage pipes or downspouts are directed to the base of your oaks.
- > Allow any bulbs you have planted, i.e. daffodils, tulips to turn brown and dry up. The bulb regains its nutrients from the leaves. When they are totally dry the leaves will come off easily, leaving the bulb safely in the ground for next year.
- > Wait to mow annual green grass until it starts to turn yellow. This is when you will know the grass is done growing and ready for mowing. Start on the south exposure sides of your property as the sun is more prevalent on that aspect and will be ready to cut sooner than north exposures. If you follow this rule you will only have to mow once this summer.
- > Add a nesting bird box in your yard and even a suet bar for the local birds. Bonnie at the Wildbird store in San Carlos has a great collection of feeders, seed and suet. If you have a dog, brush some hair off their coat and leave it on a tree branch and the birds will utilize it as nesting material.
- > Do not spray your trees for worms or bugs as all sorts of birds utilize this food source in the spring, especially to feed new born baby birds. The worms do not hurt the tree and they only emerge for a short period of time.

## MAILBOX MAINTENANCE

The Palomar Park mailboxes are maintained using dues from our PPO members. Every year we spend approximately \$1,500-2,000 repairing mailboxes and roadside name boards.



Contact us at: [PalomarNews@gmail.com](mailto:PalomarNews@gmail.com) if you have an issue or maintenance request or go to [www.palomarpark.org](http://www.palomarpark.org)

## SAVE THE DATE PPO PICNIC

September 9th will be the date of our annual Palomar Park picnic and BBQ. All are welcome and admission is FREE if you are a paid PPO member. If you haven't paid your 2023 member dues yet now is the time. The picnic is a long standing tradition in Palomar Park and last year we had approximately 200 residents. Look for information this summer in your mailbox or subscribe to our email list now to receive special information and notifications.



## GARDEN CLUB by Phyllis Anderson

The long standing club is about a sense of place and neighborhood connections...not just about gardening! The Palomar Park Garden Club invites interested residents to join us for our next adventure and potluck lunch. We are currently meeting every other month. Since 1948, the Palomar Park Garden Club has expressed the interests of members and completed many community service projects such as:

- ❖ Redwood road signs and mailboxes
- ❖ Establishing red-barked madrones around Clifford School Library
- ❖ Clearing main exit routes of invasive and fire-prone weeds (brooms, pampas grass, eucalyptus)
- ❖ Guided tours: from the San Mateo County Sheriff's Forensic Lab, to our neighborhood's prohibition era secret-storage house, and the serpentine Andy Goldsworthy sculpture at Stanford
- ❖ Legendary Lunches: Herzen Russian Art History, Ewing labyrinth, and Margaret's Mardi Gras on February 2023

**WHAT'S NEXT?** Our next meeting will be a potluck lunch in May. Please email Gillian Chao [gillianchao@gmail.com](mailto:gillianchao@gmail.com) with the subject line Palomar Garden Club to get on the mailing list. Gillian and Carol Lashman have taken on the leadership roles.

We look forward to meeting you!

## LOCAL BEES & SPRING HONEY

The harsh winter has delayed our local Palomar Park bees from making honey. Did you know bees can't fly in the rain? Nor do they like to forage for pollen or nectar if it is below 50 degrees. We hope to harvest our first spring honey this month. Keep planting those pollinator plants for our Palomar Park bees to enjoy.

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

To place an order contact:  
Denise Enea-Charlebois  
650 740-9883 or  
[decharlebois1@gmail.com](mailto:decharlebois1@gmail.com)



*\*Profits go to Red Cross and Animal Welfare charities.*

## 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](http://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 zone". This is the SMC evacuation system and you can go to: [community.zonehaven.com](http://community.zonehaven.com) to find out critical evacuation information. Palomar Park's zone is **SC-E008**

## 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 pulling a permit for your project. Permits are required for most improvements to your home including: fences, water heaters, replacing decks, replacing windows, driveway replacements, etc.

If you have a questions for the Planning or Building department, you can call: 650 599-7311 or email [cleung@smcgov.org](mailto:cleung@smcgov.org)



## PALOMAR PARK WEBSITE

Help contribute to our Palomar Park website; [www.palomarpark.org](http://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](mailto:PalomarNews@gmail.com)



## CHIPPER PROGRAM IS BACK

Let's talk DEFENSIBLE SPACE and how this free program can assist you in disposing of overgrown, dead or diseased vegetation around your home and property to keep it safe from wildfire. On June 5th the chipper crew will be making the rounds of Palomar Park and chip the piles you leave neatly stacked in front of your house. There are a few simple rules and specifications:

- ❖ Stack cut ends facing towards the street
- ❖ Leave up to 8" diameter branches
- ❖ Do not leave vines, poison oak, piles of leaves or stumps with dirt on root ball.
- ❖ Do not leave any lumber or firewood size pieces
- ❖ Make sure your pile is ready on the curb by 8:00am
- ❖ Piles should be no larger than 10' x 10' x 5'
- ❖ If you want your chips leave a note on your branches

## HISTORY IN THE MAKING

Our Palomar Park Historian is making his own history. Dan Petelin is working on a community bronze plaque dedicated to all the residents of Palomar Park. Dan is spearheading the project and also financially taking charge. He has received several donations and hopes to install the plaque at the lower U.S. mailbox Y on Palomar Dr. this summer. If you have questions about the project or want to offer assistance, please contact Dan directly at [dpetelin@pacbell.net](mailto:dpetelin@pacbell.net).

## SPOTLIGHT ON EDGEWOOD PARK EDUCATION CENTER

Nestled in neighboring Edgewood Park and Nature Preserve – treasured for its spectacular wildflower displays and serpentine grasslands – is a wonderful educational and research resource, the Bill and Jean Lane Education Center. If you missed it, it is likely because it just reopened last year and keeps the limited hours of 9:30 am-4:00 pm on Saturdays and Sundays and 9:30 am-12:00 pm on Wednesdays.

A special treat for school age children, the ed center houses fun, interactive exhibits highlighting the unique soils and plant communities of Edgewood Park. An all-volunteer staff provides information on flowers in bloom and recently spotted birds and animals. Spring, and especially this spring with all the rain, is a stunning time to explore the natural beauty of the area surrounding Palomar Park. Information on docent-led wildflower hikes across the park's 467 acres can be found at <https://www.smcgov.org/parks/edgewood-park-activities>.

## PPO ANNUAL MEMBER DUES

Please renew your annual 2023 Palomar Park Owner's membership. We depend on member dues to repair our community mailboxes, host community events, fund the annual chipper program and other beneficial projects and functions for Palomar Park and our residents. Your \$50 donation goes a long way. You can pay online:

[www.palomarpark.org](http://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](mailto: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](mailto: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 of our environment and maintain the rural attributes of our community.

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CONTACT US AT:

[PalomarNews@gmail.com](mailto:PalomarNews@gmail.com) If you have a question for the Board or if you are interested in serving. [www.palomarpark.org](http://www.palomarpark.org)