

BEACHCOMBER

SINCE 1946



FIREHOUSE LAND BLESSING *see story inside*

52ND MUIR BEACH VOLUNTEER FIREFIGHTER'S BBQ SUNDAY, MAY 24, 2026

IN SANTOS MEADOW ON FRANK VALLEY ROAD

LIVE MUSIC BY

ANDRE'S ALLSTARS & SUNHUNTER



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T-SHIRTS, KIDS PLAY ZONE & MORE!

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THE NEW MUIR BEACH
FIREHOUSE!



Muir Beach Volunteer Firefighters' Barbecue Marks 52 Years of Community Tradition

By Denise Lamott

Memorial Day weekend means it's time for the **Muir Beach Volunteer Firefighters' Barbecue!**

Now in its 52nd year, the annual gathering returns **on Sunday, May 24**, at **Santos Meadow**, bringing together neighbors, friends, and visitors for an afternoon that feels as much like a reunion as a fundraiser.

A major annual fundraiser for the **Muir Beach Volunteer Fire Department**, this event is truly the heart of our community. It's where you run into people you haven't seen in months, where live music fills the meadow, and where that unmistakable Muir Beach spirit carries through the day.

This year feels especially meaningful as we recently broke ground on our new, decades-in-the-making firehouse, which will help ensure our firefighters have the resources they need to serve the community well into the future. Proceeds from the barbecue will go directly toward completing and equipping that new facility.

Of course, the day is also about having a great time. Firefighters and volunteers will serve up barbecue chicken, crepes, vegetarian tamales, and homemade desserts all afternoon. A big thank you to Good Earth for providing the organic ingredients for

the desserts. There will also be beer (donated by Lagunitas Brewing), wine, non-alcoholic drinks, and a chance to pick up MBVFD's iconic dog logo merchandise.

Music is a big part of what makes the day special. This year's lineup includes **SunHunter**, voted Best Band in Marin in the *Pacific Sun* readers' poll last year, along with longtime favorites **Andre's All-Stars**. See you on the dance floor!

Be sure to grab some raffle tickets as well, with prizes ranging from local experiences to travel stays and restaurant gift certificates.

At its core, the barbecue is about supporting the MBVFD firefighters who show up for this community whenever they're needed. These are neighbors helping neighbors and are often the first to respond in an emergency. Events like this are essential to keeping the MBVFD strong.

The barbecue runs from **noon to 6 p.m.** at **Santos Meadow, 2704 Muir Woods Road**. Parking is **\$30 per vehicle** (carpooling is encouraged), and walk-in or bike-in admission is **\$10**. Purchases of food, beverages, raffle tickets, and merchandise are all appreciated.

To volunteer, contact Nina Vincent at ninavp@earthlink.net.

For more information, visit MuirBeachFire.com or email denise@deniselamottpr.com.



SunHunter photo by Andrea Kash



Andre's All Stars photo courtesy MBVFD

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ON THE COVER

Firehouse Land Blessing

with Danny and Wendy

March 17, 2026

Photo by Laurie Piel

See page 14-15 for story and photos.

COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENT

We now have an email-based noticeboard for residents in the Big Lagoon area (in and around Muir Beach, Slide Ranch, Green Gulch, Druid Heights)

This is a place to post requests, offers, and news, to be received by all the subscribed neighbors. (261 at present count.) To subscribe, send an email to: biglagoon-request@lists.riseup.net

Intention: the spirit is meant to be one of accessibility, kindness, and generosity — anything that inhabits care for neighbors and a sense of community.

Mutual aid: when asking for help, you can be as specific or as general as you want to be. For instance you could ask, "I would like help setting up a meal train for someone. Please email or call me at 415-123-4567 and I'll tell you more about it."

Community announcements: this is a place to announce things of interest to the community.

Recommendations: if you want to recommend a chimney cleaner, this is a place to mention it. If you are looking for a chimney cleaner, this is a place to ask.

Classifieds: If you want to give away a kayak, this is a place to offer it. If you want to sell a kayak, Nextdoor and Craigslist are probably better avenues - please use your discretion on this. If you want to hire a neighbor for an odd job, this is a place to ask. If you are looking for local work, this is a place to let everyone know what work you are interested in.

Also good to know: when someone replies to a message, the reply goes only to the sender of the first message.

Administrative questions can go to Hendl Mirra: hmirra@posteo.net

The *Beachcomber*, our neighborhood news, is published quarterly by and for residents, friends, family and former residents of Muir Beach. Published since 1946 (on and off), circulation 180 (more or less).

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Contribute your essays, poems, stories, photos, artwork, announcements, reviews – anything that celebrates Muir Beachers and our community. Everything printed should be considered solely the opinion of the writer and printed in the form and condition as submitted. *Beachcomber* exercises no editorial control over content except for readability and general appearance.

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2026 BBQ Raffle Ticket Reminder

Hi MB Neighbors: I've got over 50 great prizes so far (as of April 30), including certificates to Marin restaurants, overnights, passes to museums, educational tours, tickets to theaters, gourmet coffee and food items, grocery shopping certificates, great books, ceramics, emergency items, body, home and outdoor items, custom art and more! Raffle tickets remain \$1.00 each. Checks should be made out to "MBVFA" and return the small stubs (keep the larger ends).



In early May, the current raffle prize list was put in all of our local mail boxes along with this year's BBQ flyer, a greeting from the Chief and 25 raffle tickets. Please reach out if you'd like to buy more, as the more locals who buy raffle tickets, the quicker it can be to locate the winners!

Thank you,
Debra Allen
deballen@deballen.com, 415-279-3751



Since our last report in February we have run 16 calls. Six of these calls were for medical emergencies in our community. We do not describe community medical calls in any way in the Beachcomber given the small size of our community and our professional and legal obligations regarding confidentiality.

- 01/30/26 14:30 Smoking Appliance – Jon Rauh
- 01/31/26 10:12 AM Fall/Laceration @ Big Beach – Brad Eigsti
- 02/28/26 17:00 68 y/o male trapped in bushes @ Slide Ranch – Chris Gove
- 03/02/26 15:00 78 y/o male possible heart attack @ Muir Woods – Chris Gove
- 03/08/26 11:34 20 y/o with knee laceration on trail – Jon Rauh, David Taylor
- 03/21/26 11:00 35 y/o male bicycle accident w facial injuries – Chris Gove
- 03/22/26 12:34 Motorcycle v. car UTL – Chris Gove, Jon Rauh
- 03/31/26 21:15 Male w health problems @ Green Gulch – Brad Eigsti, Chris Gove
- 04/10/26 11:31 61 y/o female fall/head injury @ Muir Woods – Jon Rauh
- 04/12/26 17:53 Tree Down @ Frank Valley Rd. – Chris Gove

A Ritual We Here Enjoy Often!

By Mia Monroe

Muir Beach sunsets are spectacular in their prolonged color drama across quite an expanse. I'm sure many of you anticipate them, pause to enjoy often.

Thus, we are already practicing a new type of mindfulness gaining traction worldwide and traced to being a nightly norm in Dutch culture: **dusking!**

It involves simply spending time outside to observe the dusk or the descent of darkness at twilight. **Dusking** embraces the natural pause between day and night, and offers a brief respite from technology as well as the hustle and bustle of daily life.

Some recommend seeking one point and watching it fade...easy to focus with our skyline complete with Wobbly Rock, the Farallones, surf, a ship, trees! No need to go anywhere, just pull up a chair and gaze out from home. **Dusking** is good to do alone or companionably with friends or family. Variations such as **dusking** at the Muir Beach Overlook, Hope Cottage, or at the beach are rewarding! Refreshment to toast with, a dog nearby are all wonderful embellishments!

Side benefits of **dusking** include prioritizing a bit of time with darkness. This is a good way to combat the negative influences of light pollution which include suppressing melatonin and interrupting circadian rhythms. There also may be unexpected surprises such as bird song, the appearance of the first star that help us appreciate and witness the miracles happening every day around us.

A Conversation with Tennessee Hildebrand

By Laurie Piel

The band, *Give Me A Dollar*, played at the Pelican Inn on Sunday, December 17th and I allowed myself to be roped into going because MB'er and friend Tennessee Hildebrand was part of the group. To my surprise they had quite a following and the conservatory was packed... and to my extreme enjoyment, they were excellent! It was fun to sit back, enjoy the concert and be part of a great group and an audience that was having a great time. The following week I sat down with Tennessee to find out more about him and the group.

LAURIE: Hi Tenn... thanks for taking the time to chat with me. My first question is where did you grow up?

TENN: My mom met Gerry Pearlman many years ago during a camping trip and we moved to Muir Beach when I was 8. We lived on the Pearlman/de Barros communal property so the first people I met in Muir Beach were Harvey Pearlman & Nina Vincent and Martha & Lee de Barros.

LAURIE: So, Harvey and Gerry have watched you grow up?

TENN: Yeah, pretty much ... also Maxx Moore and I are the same age, so I would hang out with him and his friends. I met Jackson Moore soon after, and we would all run around Muir Beach together, and still do. Those are my boys!

LAURIE: So what was it like growing up in a neighborhood without a whole lot of kids your age? Do you look back at that fondly or not?

TENN: Yeah, I do. We lived in Stinson for two years where there were more kids my age. There were four of us that became really close.



Give Me A Dollar, Tommy Freiburger, Karsen Scott, Tennessee, photo by Laurie Piel

And I still surf with a few of the kids I met at the Bolinas-Stinson school. There were only twelve kids in my class. Quite a few of the kids I met there surf or play music.

LAURIE: Is that where your love of music came from?

TENN: Both my dad and my mom's side of the family are musical. I started playing fiddle when I was in 4th grade. I went to a really cool Steiner school, Marin Waldorf School, in Terra Linda where everyone had to play an instrument. Then I went to Branson for high school on a scholarship to play viola in the chamber music program there.

LAURIE: So what made you pick up the viola to begin with?

TENN: While I was at Waldorf School I wanted to play music with all of the other students who had chosen strings, so I started playing viola. I specifically wanted to play viola because everyone else was playing violin and I thought the viola sounded a little less squeaky. Viola is crazy because you read sheet music in alto clef rather than treble or bass clef. I think it's the only string instrument that's in alto clef, so I can't even read treble or bass clef.

LAURIE: Did you try other instruments?

TENN: I play guitar and mandolin but I have played viola for the majority of my life. I never played fiddle until this year but, thankfully, viola is very similar to the fiddle. It just has one different string so it's basically just a lower version of the violin, but you still play in an upright position. When Tommy Freiburger and Karsen Scott formed *Give Me A Dollar* they asked if I could add some fiddle to a few of their tunes. In our first couple of shows, I would play viola on some songs and then I would switch to fiddle for others. It became too tricky switching the microphone between songs, so I've pretty much just been sticking to fiddle.

LAURIE: When and why did you pick up guitar?

TENN: Probably as a rebellion tactic at about eleven or twelve. Then I played in high school in a bluegrass band, but I switched to mandolin which was a great combination between violin and guitar. Same strings as the violin but picking and strumming like a guitar.

LAURIE: So, you still play mandolin?

TENN: I can still play mandolin but the thing about playing a bunch of different instruments is that you never really reach a self-satisfying

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level at any one of them. You get distracted going from instrument to instrument and then never really become the master of one.

LAURIE: Jack of all strings master of...

TENN: Yeah... it's really hilarious to even say that I've been playing the fiddle since I was in 4th or 5th grade because if I had just been doing that all along I would be much better than I am now. My musical education has been so weirdly segmented. Maybe I have a better understanding of music as a whole, but I don't have the best technical capability for certain things... if that makes sense.

LAURIE: It does. You are of an age now when you have to think more about being self-supporting and making a living and that, I suspect, would take time away from any opportunity to specialize now.

TENN: Yeah, I mean, I play for fun. It brings me great joy to play with my friends in our little band. It's no more serious than that. It's all just something really fun that we can do and if people like the music then that's just the icing on the cake. Tommy and Karsen are insane songwriters which, I think, is the hardest thing ... creating original melodies, lyrics and beautifully crafted songs. I just get to add some licks in the background which is perfect for me.

LAURIE: So, do you know how long *Give Me a Dollar* has been around?

TENN: Coming up on about a year this summer.

LAURIE: They have quite a following for being together for such a short time. Did they start as just the two of them and then add you?

TENN: Yeah, they were playing for a while as a duo and then I joined in to play a few shows with them in the summer. We have a ton of fun playing together and I'm so grateful we mesh so well. We recently recorded a two song EP with a really talented musician named Ryan who lives up in Woodacre. It's a great production and it's online digitally under *Give Me A Dollar* on Spotify or Apple Music. I think I'm only playing on one of the two songs, actually. What I love about *Give Me a Dollar* is that Karsen wrote half the songs and Tommy wrote the other half. Most of the stuff we play is original... maybe we'll add one or two cover songs per show.

LAURIE: Let's turn to your other love... surfing. When did you start surfing and when did you fall in love with it and do you enjoy teaching it?

TENN: When my mom and I moved from Muir to Stinson for a period of about two years, I rode the school bus from the Stinson Beach Market to school and back every day. There was one other kid who would get dropped off in Stinson and he surfed. He would go pretty much every day after school so I would just go with him and boogie board and watch him. I slowly started surfing after that. I never went to a camp or anything, but a lot of my friends who grew up here went to different surf schools. I pretty much started teaching the year after I learned how to surf. I was probably thirteen and I've been doing it every summer since then. This year I started my own after school surf instruction program that's called Tenno's Surf Camp www.surftennos.com.

LAURIE: So, do you have any idea what you'd like to do next with your life?

TENN: I try (unsuccessfully) not to overthink and stress out about what's

coming, and instead think about the present. Right at this very moment, I'm grateful to be participating in work that I love - teaching kids how to surf and getting them outdoors after school. I'm playing music with two of my best friends and I'm living in the part of the world I grew up in with a community I really love. Who knows, this might be as good as it gets.

LAURIE: I gotta tell you ... it sounds like it's as good as it gets!

TENN: I'm enjoying life day-to-day and trying to cherish it because you know things change all the time. That's the best answer I've got to tell you. I've worked since I was young and made money for myself while making my own life. I'm content with that now and open to what will come. I want to add that I am so grateful to this beautiful community we have in Muir Beach. There are so many people that I look up to here, and who have been father figures to me. Also, I have to credit my mom who brought me here and who has always supported what I do. I have a lot of loving people in my life who I love back.

LAURIE: Do you know how few people have that.. and how lucky you are?

TENN: I try to place the importance on that. Cherishing and enjoying life now while I can, I think is the best of all possible choices. I think I've learned that from our small community of people who have grown up and lived that sentiment.

LAURIE: Yes, we're all so lucky to live here. Thanks so much for spending some time with me. Hopefully, more people will follow *Give Me a Dollar* on Instagram @givemeadollarmusic where they'll find both your recording and your upcoming schedule. Thanks again and see you 'round the 'hood.

A Thanksgiving Gift 2025

by Gregory A. Ketchum, Ph.D.

Deb and I decided to go out for Thanksgiving instead of cooking for just the two of us. I made reservations for noon at a local French café called Petit Left Bank. When we arrived, there were just a handful of people there, but when we left a couple of hours later, the place was packed. Like many restaurants, they were offering a fixed-price, four-course dinner, and by the time you included wine, tax, and tip, the bill came to over a couple of hundred dollars.

We enjoyed the meal and the vibe of the restaurant, and when we finished eating, I took out my credit card and laid it on the table to signal to the waiter that we were ready to pay. After delivering food to other diners, the waiter stopped at our table, leaned in close to us and said, "The gentleman sitting over there by himself has taken care of your meal."

Nothing like this had ever happened to either of us before, so we were very surprised and a bit stunned. "Wait, what?" I asked the waiter.

"That gentleman sitting by himself over there has paid for your meal," he replied.

"Well, did he say why?" I asked.

"No, he didn't mention why, only that he wanted to take care of it," he said.

The waiter walked away, my credit card still lying on the table. Deb and I looked at each other in disbelief. We were so taken aback and so grateful, and I wanted to go over and thank him. Deb was sitting facing outward, so our benefactor would have been able to see her face, while I sat with my back toward him.

We were getting ready to leave when Deb said she'd stop by the bathroom before we walked out. As I stood up, I was eager to turn around and identify the gentleman sitting alone. It's a small restaurant, so there were maybe half a dozen or so tables to scan in the area where the waiter had indicated he was sitting. I looked over those tables and thought maybe the waiter had been mistaken, as I couldn't see any single gentleman sitting alone. However, there was one empty table in that section. Apparently, he had already left.

While Deb was in the bathroom, I walked over to where our waiter was standing. "What happened to the gentleman who took care of our meal?" I asked.

"When I last stopped by his table, he told me he wanted to remain anonymous. But when I let him know I had already told you who paid, he got up and left," he said.

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When Deb came back to where I was standing, we looked at each other, still in disbelief. We walked out of the restaurant feeling deeply touched by his anonymous gift. One of the feelings it evoked in both of us was a strong desire to pay it forward, almost as if his kindness showed us how deeply you can touch someone with a simple anonymous gesture.

As we drove home, we talked about what might have motivated him to show that kindness to two perfect strangers. While we'll never know, we settled on what we think is at least one likely scenario: Deb is on supplemental oxygen full-time. She was wearing her cannula attached to the oxygen tank in the backpack she had at her feet, and this would have been clearly visible to him. Since he was sitting by himself, our guess is that he had lost someone dear to him who had also been on supplemental oxygen. He might have wished he could have done more for his loved one, but since that wasn't possible, he did something for someone who reminded him of the person he lost.

I know what that feels like. After I lost my mother, I would often find myself thinking about more things I wish I could have done for her. However, while I couldn't give more to my mother, I could give more to her two beloved sisters, who have been there for me and my brothers our entire lives, which is exactly what I've done.

We're both amazed at how deeply this kindness touched us. It reminds me of that line in the movie *As Good as It Gets*, where Helen Hunt's character and Jack Nicholson's character are out to dinner. At one point, she says to him, "Say something nice to me."

He thought for a moment and then said, "You make me want to be a better man."

That's a pretty good description of what this gentleman's anonymous gift did for us. It made us want to be even better people, kinder, more giving versions of ourselves, and that's an amazing gift, much bigger than paying for a stranger's meal.

Happy Thanksgiving to you, all our loved ones...



*The Empty Table Where Our Anonymous Benefactor Sat.
Photo by Greg Ketchum*

Surf Camp

By Beth Nelson

About this time every year, we would start to think about surf camp. To spend a summer outside and in the water is about the closest thing to heaven I can imagine.

Surfing brought friendships to our home that have lasted all these years.

Surfing brought water safety, junior lifeguards, travel, adventure, camaraderie, sport, and a certain sort of bliss accessible only by spending your days in the water. The kids I knew twelve years ago are the same kids still around my dinner table, now healthy, thriving, surfing, adults.

Surfing brings vitality, surfing is a source of friendship world-wide, surfing makes your serotonin rise to amazing levels, surfing makes you strong, surfing gives you confidence, surfing washes out worry and replaces it with balance and contentment. I have never seen a surfer come out of the water unhappy (unless they missed that one great wave)!

Here at Muir Beach we are lucky to have two great teachers available for lessons. Our Own Nicki Clark and my son Tennessee. Nicki offers a number of clinics for women. I quote :

“This is a 3.5 hour surf clinic designed to inspire and empower like-minded women to grow as surfers and adventurers in a supportive, playful environment. We will cover location assessment, surf conditions,

variables and etiquette, as well as surfing technique and then put it all to practice!

The women’s clinic is open to all female identified humans (cis, trans, non binary humans, non conforming humans, gender queer humans and any applicant not assigned to the female sex at birth). Group size 8. Meeting place Stinson Beach or Bolinas, depending on conditions.”

marinoutdooradventure.com

415 322 0034

— — — —

Tenn’s Surf Camp offers both an after school and a summer camp. I quote:

“**Tenno’s Surf Camp, and After School Club** provides a safe and inspiring environment where kids can develop essential ocean skills, while having a blast.”

The program covers everything from surf etiquette, wave selection, water safety technique and reading the ocean with confidence. It gives kids a chance to stay active, build confidence and unwind in a positive, supportive setting. There is also an all girl day with coach Ruby Marshall.

surftennos.com

— — — —

As an ocean swimming mom, I cannot recommend enough the power of the sea to teach you, to comfort you, and to inspire you in all aspects of your life. Please reach out to Nicki or Tenn with any queries.



Tenno’s Surf Camp, Tennessee Hildebrand and Ruby Marshall

NO KINGS DAY

The *Muir Beach Peaceful Protest* reconvened on Saturday, 28 March at the entry of Frank Valley Road. A small but mighty group made our voices heard. Lots of laughs and always good fellowship at these protests.



At the Muir Beach Peaceful Protest, Saturday 28 March 2026: Charlene, Harvey, Isaac, Liz, Klaus, Leah, and Susannah. Photos by Beth Nelson



Robin Terra



Jack Lamott (Denise Lamott's father)



Quite a number of Muir Beachers were involved in *The Human Banner* at Ocean Beach. For many it has become a tradition. There were 7,000 people that day on the beach, a record! As always, the group emails after are both poignant and funny, as we relive past protests, kids getting older, elders getting frailer, and our capacity to come together, along with our freedom to protest - never taken for granted. Thanks to everyone who came out.

– Beth Nelson

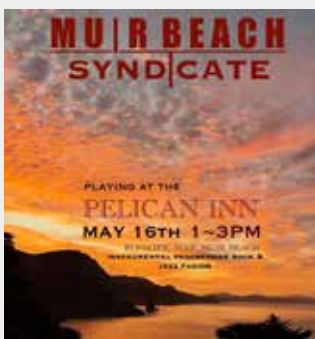
Pelican Inn Concerts

By Bob Bowyer

Head to the Peli for a beer and live music on the lawn following the MBBBQ work parties at Santos Meadow on Saturday May 9th and 16th!



Playing from 1-3pm on May 9th the Muir Beach Grass Band will play their high-energy “New Grass” sound of upbeat rock covers played on traditional bluegrass instruments. Band members include Bryce Bowyer on drums, Paul Tollefson on mandolin and vocals, Garrett Lawrence on guitar and vocals, Mark Pandapas on bass, Renee Boeche on vocals, and Bob Bowyer playing banjo and keyboards.



From 1-3pm on May 16th the Muir Beach Syndicate will be performing its unique blend of progressive rock - jazz fusion. Their instrumental music is composed in the moment and has been compared to the music of Pat Metheny, Pink Floyd, Primus and Fishbone. Members include local Bob Bowyer on keyboards and banjo, Bryce Bowyer on drums, Craig Herzog on guitar, Jeremy Sherman on bass, and Jan Stevens on percussion, flute and sax.

Paul Smith in concert



On Sunday, March 22nd Paul Smith, one of MB's favorite pianists, entertained the community with an exciting solo recital of some of the masters... Beethoven, Prokofiev and Schubert. The last minute cancellation by his page turner resulted in the quick substitution of our own District Manager, Mary Halley. Paul has two more concerts coming up... one on July 19th featuring the BIG Little Orchestra (piano & string trio) and Paul's Contemporary Opera Marin on the 26th.

–Laurie Piel

Paul Smith and his "guest" page turner, Mary Halley. He will be back again for more classical music in July. Photo by Outi Onorato

Maximilian Wolfgang Gross Piel 2005-2026

Back in the days when David & I were still working (the mid 2000's) a young black cat started coming around and, needless to say, I started feeding and petting the newcomer. We had had a cat when we arrived here but she, Gimpy, (yes, she limped) died shortly soon after.

The handsome black cat would show up for a few days and then not be around for a while. Whenever David wasn't around I would let him sleep upstairs in our loft. Sometimes he would show up with a collar and David would say "see, he's not feral... he belongs to someone." Of course, that never stopped me from offering the loft when I was alone. This on and off visitation went on for a while and eventually he started showing up daily. David finally relented and I had him checked out. The following week Pilar, our cleaning lady, came and I said to her... "don't be surprised, we have a cat". To which she replied "I know that cat!"... really!!!! "Yes, he belongs to Alex Johnston who lives across Seacape." So, I picked up the



phone and called Alex and asked "are you missing a cat?" He said "actually the cat in question belongs to Carol & Lloyd Gross who live one house down Seacape from me." So once again, I picked up the phone and called them and asked the same question. Lloyd answered the phone and said yes Max had been coming and going and he would be happy to come over and let us know if it was actually Max hanging out at our house. He came over and said "yes that's Max and, oh by the way, he'll actually let you shake his paw for butter because he loves butter." I then asked the foolish question would you like your cat back and he said cats decide where they want to live. So, after turning down

joint custody, he said Max was ours. Turns out both the Grosses and Alex ended up getting dogs so Max let out for the next safe house. Once he crossed Seacape we were the first house without a pet. Shortly thereafter, Chris Gove had one of his famous beach parties which we attended and where we ran into Lloyd. He said you haven't met my wife yet. Let me go get her. He returned with Carol in tow and said as an introduction "This is the couple that has Max." Carol looked at us and, in her sternest DA voice, said "So you're the ones who stole our cat!" David looked right back at her and said "Yes, and he told us you were both a**holes!" Carol dissolved into laughter... two east coasters, recognizing the same brand of humor!!! And so a friendship was born. On March 8th Max crossed the rainbow bridge in my arms but his body is interred near Gimpy in the land he loved... never to leave it again.

– Laurie Piel

Yay Everybody! Springtime at the Pelican Inn

By Chelsea Swinea

Spring is in full swing here at the Pelican Inn, and with the longer days and warmer evenings, there is a renewed energy around the property. From new faces on the floor to celebrations on the lawn, it is one of our favorite times of year and there is a lot to share.

We have recently welcomed a few new team members you will likely meet on your next visit. Kelsey joins us as a server, bringing warmth and hospitality along with a background as a trained pastry chef. We are quietly hoping that talent finds its way onto a dessert special or two. She is also the mother of two, which means she handles a busy dining room with ease. Grant has also come aboard. He is a nature lover, an avid camper, and a motorcycle rider who

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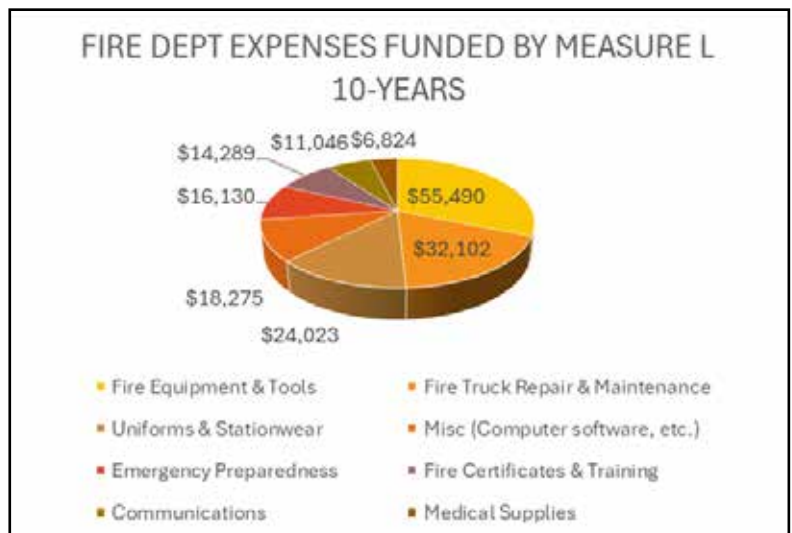
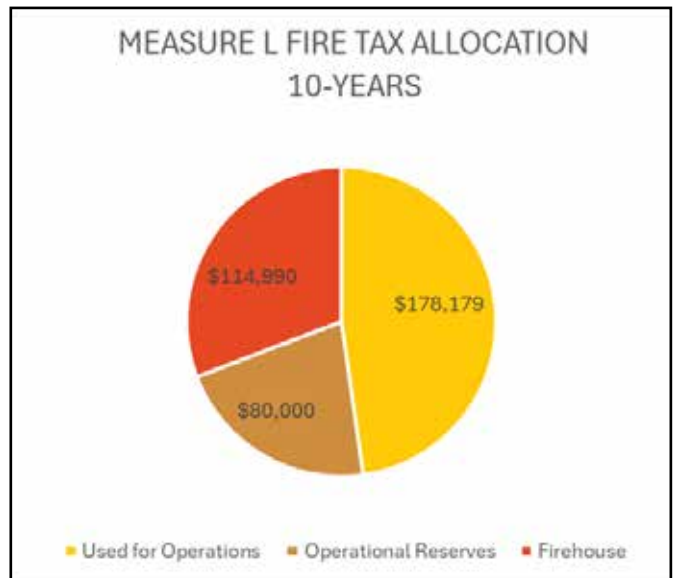
Measure L Summary

By Mary Halley

The expiring Measure L Fire Tax had a very good run! This is the last year of the Measure L Fire Tax – that was voted in by an 81.59% majority back in 2016 – so it seems like a good time to analyze how the tax initiative provided for our volunteer firefighters and emergency services. Looking at the aggregate numbers, it seems to have been very successful in keeping our fire department afloat and also looking towards future improvements. It provided \$373,169 in total revenues over the last 10 years and helped to cover over \$178,179 in daily operational costs, allowed the department to have an essential operational safety reserve of \$80,000, as well as help contribute \$114,990 to saving for the new firehouse.

This was partly made possible because the Fire Chief made a concerted effort to keep expenses to a bare minimum as the department and community kept a focused eye towards a new fire station. The department spent \$178,179 on daily operational costs for fire equipment and tools, fire truck repair and maintenance, uniforms, turnouts, and station wear, emergency preparedness, medical supplies, fire certification and training, radio communications, software, printing, and other miscellaneous supplies.

It's not always true of all taxes today, but Measure L seems to have delivered on its promise!



LAND BLESSING *For the new Firehouse*

On the very warm evening of March 17, 2026, over 100 residents and former residents gathered at 87 Seacape Drive, site of the new firehouse.

Thanks to Wendy Johnson and Danny Hobson, along with MBVFA Fundraising Advisory Committee members, for organizing the event.

Wendy and Danny led the blessing, which began with the lighting of a candle by one of the youngest in the crowd, Jessica Rauh. Then altogether everyone blessed each direction in unison – facing east, south, west, and finally north - and then calling out the names of ancestors - those Muir Beachers who are no longer with us. Wendy brought a special shovel made from melted down weapons - a symbol of peace - and Chris Gove used that to open the earth and offered Guinness to the ground in honor of St Patrick's Day. Denise Lamott then added compost made with manure from the horse stables near the current firehouse. Sage was lit by Kasey Corbit who used it to bless an Angelica bush that will be planted at the site when construction is complete. Danny led everyone in expressing gratitude to all the people in this community who have worked together to get us to this celebratory moment in which we have plans, permits and partial funding to begin the new firehouse. A super-sized dog & fire hydrant sign was unveiled, so our community can track progress as the fire hydrant will fill up red as we raise the remaining funds to complete the firehouse. The evening concluded with neighbors all walking up to the Overlook to enjoy a stunning sunset together. Thank you to everyone who was there!

–Janet Tumpich with Danny Hobson and Wendy Johnson



Current and past firefighters who were present at the Land Blessing Event on March 17, 2026:

Anna Rauh, Jes Sward, Mike Moore, Rob Allen, Joseph Ferraro, Chris Gove, Maurice Conti, David Taylor, Chris Vallee, Adriana Bender, Frank Piazza, Andre Pessis, Graham Groneman, and Jon Rauh

Photos by Laurie Piel



Muir Beach Volunteer Fireman Brad Eigsti and his dog Oso. Brad did the lettering and Ellen Litwiller did the illustration for the muirbeachfire.com donation billboard.

Danny and Wendy, photo by Chris Gove



MEASURE M THOUGHTS

By David Taylor

I find myself this spring completely immersed in fire department matters to such an extent that I might need a psychiatrist. I am comforted in the knowledge that actually I am not alone in this. The fire department is the central organizing principle of this community and to an extent almost everyone is involved. In addition to the volunteer firefighters and their families:

- There is the non profit foundation the MBVFA that supports our activities.
- There is the capital campaign committee to raise money for the firehouse and future capital expenses.
- There is the Measure M campaign to ensure continuity of departmental operations.

- There is the actual construction of the firehouse that is well underway.
- There is the Firewise group that promotes defensible space planning and implementation.
- There is the Disaster Council that prepares its numerous neighborhood liaisons on how to manage in case of disaster.
- There are the four MWPA fuel reduction projects engaging multiple neighborhoods.
- There is the MBCSD that oversees the finances and building permits.
- There is the sprawling effort to host the most famous and long lasting blowout party in Marin County history that draws in dozens and dozens of people.



It would seem that the few Muir Beachers not involved in some component of fire department work are either retired from spending decades of supporting the fire department or under the age of 3.

In my state of deep immersion I start to mull over what this all means for us.

- Is it that Muir Beach is just a chapter of the Anxiety Disorders Association and that we are just preparing for the worst all the time?
- Is it that Muir Beach is just the residential campus of a small fire department?
- Is it that the MBVFD is our beloved underdog college football team that we all always want to root for and support?

Or is it that in the end it's all about death and taxes: Fire departments are some kind of hedge against death after all and taxes (VOTE YES ON MEASURE M) are required to keep us alive.

RED ALERT: Muir Beach in safety zone with Fire Extinguisher Service

By Sarah Nesbitt (member of the Muir Beach Disaster Council)

The sky was blue, the butterflies were orange and the fire extinguishers were red. Mostly. On Saturday, March 21st, the Muir Beach Disaster Council (MBDC) invited residents to bring fire extinguishers from their homes to the Stables. There, they could meet two Cintas Fire Extinguisher Experts -Brandon and Don - who would inspect, refill and replace them. All thanks to the enthusiastic initiative of Susannah Kennedy, a member of your MBDC.

With emergency preparedness in mind, residents showed up in numbers. Our Fire Chief, Chris Gove, later informed us that we had a better turnout than Stinson and Bolinas for the same event. Well done Muir Beach! With Kerry Wynn as our loyal Lead, your Disaster Council works together with our Volunteer Firefighters to help our community be ready in case of disaster. Having your fire extinguishers certified and recharged helps us all stay safe.

As residents arrived at the Stables carrying their fire extinguishers, each one had a story to tell. Residents placed their cylinders on the ground in order of arrival and waited their turn. No matter how rusty, dusty or full of cob webs, they were all treated as equals and carefully assessed. Some were no longer really very red at all and one was notably last buffed in 1986.

Residents could recycle or replace their fire extinguishers, purchase fire blankets and take away a complimentary stress toy or magnetic screw driver to mark the moment. While the line was long, the wait was fun as residents chatted and exchanged colorful tales. Refreshments were served, of course. Thank you to Keith Buckingham, Skip Rudolph and community for getting the word out, driving over the hill for coffee, organizing baked goods, setting up, tidying up and showing up.

With the old fire house in the background and horses looking on, residents remarked how grateful they were to know the new fire house was currently under construction, following the blessing and groundbreaking gathering on Seacape Drive in the same week. We can all find hope in the progress we witnessed, preparing for the future together. As one of our most beloved local grandfathers, Gary Freidman said: “The toughest thing now will be remembering where I put the darn thing!”...

This last one gets the prize for the oldest! 1986

Final tallies from Cintas:

- 54 Fire Extinguisher Recharges
- 36 New Fire Extinguishers Purchased
- 17 Fire Blankets Purchased
- 97 Units Turned in for Recycle

(Photos kindly supplied by Denise Lamott, Susannah Kennedy & Chris Gove)



Hokkaido, Japan here we come.....4 Muir Beachers on the hunt for “Japow.”

By Barbara Piotter

On January 20th, 2026, after talking about this trip for a long time, we finally boarded our flight to Tokyo with connection to Chitose Airport, Hokkaido. Our plan was to ski the first few days by ourselves and on the 26th meet up with Chas Kingsbury and on the 29th with Jesse Rudnick - both long time Muir Beachers.

Hokkaido is the second-largest and northernmost island of Japan’s four main islands. Hokkaido’s position on the northern end of the Japanese archipelago results in a colder climate, with the island seeing significant snowfall each winter, making it a paradise for powder skiing freaks from all over the world. They call it “Japow.”

After renting a four wheel drive Mitsubishi Delica at the airport we headed out on our adventure. All the roads were packed with ice and snow. Don was already an expert at driving on the left side of the road and in snow. On the drive, we got increasingly excited to hit the slopes.

Our first stop was Rusutsu - a small resort about 2 hours drive from the airport over a snowy mountain pass. Once we got there, we were surprised to see more white people than Asians on the slopes. There were lots and lots of Australians and Americans.

Continued on next page



Don and me on our first day skiing in Rusutsu



At the top of Sapporo Teine ski resort with Ishikari Bay in the background



Our nightly hang in the Izakayas close to our hotel



In front of our favorite Sushi bar

Continued from previous page

We learned pretty quickly how hard it is to find powder when you don't know your way around, the language, or the regulations over skiing out-of-area and "ducking under the ropes" in a foreign country.

After a few hours of skiing we headed to Niseko, the biggest ski and lodging area on Hokkaido island. The resort opened in 1982. These days Niseko is included on the US-based Ikon season's ski pass - which is a nice benefit to have because we didn't have to buy a day pass each time we went skiing.

After finding nice lodging close to the ski resort, we were excited to check out the famous "Onsens" everybody told us about. Onsen (natural hot springs) have been a vital part of Japanese culture for over 1,300



Snow packed roads



Daily shoveling to get the car out

years, originally rooted in religious purification and medicinal healing. They were popularized by Buddhist monks for cleansing rituals in the 6th century, they became crucial for therapeutic bathing for warriors and, later, the public, evolving into a cornerstone of social life and relaxation.

That night it started snowing and it did not stop snowing for 5 days and beyond. Don and I finally found the powder everybody talked about. We skied three amazing days in Niseko and nearby Moiwa. The snow was fantastic but the visibility was challenging. The early morning "powder panic" is not as crazy in Japan as we know it from Utah and Tahoe - but it is still work to catch "first tracks" in untracked powder. But - by studying the ski area maps in the evening and chatting with locals and ski patrol we indeed got some great powder every day in the Niseko area.

After our 3 days in Niseko we drove over a pass in a blizzard to Otaru to meet up with Chas. Otaru is a city and a port northwest of Sapporo. Otaru is of Ainu origin, possible meaning "River running through the sandy beach." It was originally settled by the indigenous Ainu people. Otaru has a very quaint little historic downtown and is known for its glass production, great seafood and abundant hot springs.

The heavy snowfall we enjoyed while skiing in Niseko also caused travel chaos. Most train routes across Hokkaido got canceled and cab drivers stayed home. About 7,000 travelers spent the night at the Chitose Airport on January 25th, and Chas was one of them - for part of the night. After landing around 8 pm, very few cabs were available. After waiting for hours in a giant line at the cab stand, around midnight Chas saw some local teenagers driving through the airport and with a crisp \$100 bill convinced them to take him to his hotel in nearby Chitose town. Then the next day he creatively teamed up with some Japanese locals to ride share from Chitose to Otaru. Ask Chas next time you see him about the adventures he had getting to Otaru.

After a very long journey for Chas and a rest day for us, we finally met up with him in Otaru on January 26th. There are 3 small ski resorts within a 45 min drive from Otaru; Kiroro, Kokusai, and Sapporo Teine (which hosted the 1972 Winter Olympics).

Continued on next page

Japow continued from previous page

Each morning the boys assessed which of the resorts got the most snowfall. If you don't know the ski resorts it is much harder to find the best powder. But Jessie was on his third trip to Hokkaido and has excellent powder instincts. We met up with him on the 29th and powder hunting got a lot easier. He took us to some great areas and we had some of our best days with him. Off the charts fun! There was really no sleeping-in or relaxation: on-the road to the ski resort by 7:15 am. It was all about catching first tracks on the hill: Exhilarating but also exhausting!

Besides the powder, Otaru offered great options for food. Lawson Station convenience store was one of them: They are all over Japan (similar to 7 Eleven) and for most mornings was our breakfast stop. Decent coffee, boiled eggs and rice triangles with different flavors.... too much for my stomach at 7AM but Don, Chas and Jesse lived on it.



Don in front of Lawson convenience store



Sapporo Snow Festival

Most dinner places are pretty small and often can only seat up to six people. Us being a group of four made it sometimes challenging to find a place but we always ended up eating great meals with a fun atmosphere. We went to some great Izakayas (“pub restaurants”) and sushi bars.

The Japanese are so welcoming, friendly, and excited to meet you - it made the whole experience even more fun. Between all of us using Google Translate it was no problem to communicate. My absolute favorite after a long day of skiing was the local Sapporo beer on draft. The foam was so creamy and the beer tasted delicious.

After 14 days of fun, including 11 days of hard skiing, Don and I said goodbye to Chas and Jesse. We decided to spend our last 2 days in Sapporo for the snow festival. Sapporo is the largest city north of Tokyo. In the center, it feels like Manhattan with modern high rises all around. There were huge snowbanks everywhere amid the skyscrapers!

The Sapporo Snow Festival features massive, intricately carved snow and ice sculptures. It attracts about 2 million visitors every year. It was very impressive and we were very lucky to be able to integrate it into our trip. After 2 days of fun in Sapporo, great food and fantastic skiing we were sad to leave but also very excited to come home and get some rest!

Muir Beach Gears Up for Fire Safety in 2026

Free Chipper Days and the Power of a Firewise Community

By Pamela Tom Swarts *Photo by Jeff Swarts*

As wildfire risk continues to shape life across Marin County, the residents of Muir Beach are once again taking proactive steps to protect their homes, neighbors, and the surrounding landscapes that make this community such a natural jewel.



In 2026, the community's commitment to fire safety is evident in the return of the free Chipper Days program, the ongoing efforts of the Muir Beach Firewise Team, and the dedicated service of the Muir Beach Volunteer Fire Department.

Chipper Days: A Simple Step with Big Impact

Sponsored by the Marin Wildfire Prevention Authority, Chipper Days provide residents with a simple but powerful tool: free curbside pickup, chipping, and disposal of hard vegetation materials. By removing excess brush, branches, and other flammable debris, homeowners can significantly reduce wildfire fuel around their properties.

This year's upcoming Chipper Days are scheduled during the weeks of May 25, July 6, August 24, September 28, and November 2, with pickups taking place Wednesday through Friday. Residents are encouraged to sign up for the earliest available date to help keep the program running efficiently and ensure broad participation across the community.

"I cut down our beautiful purple flowered Pride of Madeira a few years ago. This year, I have been removing a number of trees from our property with two truck loads of debris so far," said Muir Beach resident Jeff Swarts. "I have also been trimming all our trees' lower limbs that are near the ground for fire safety. Chipper Days are a no-brainer. It's free and the crew comes to your house."

Sign Up for Chipper Days: <https://reserve.chipperday.com/marin>

By the Numbers: Muir Beach Makes a Big Contribution

The impact of these efforts is already measurable. According to the 2025 Chipper Days annual report, **Muir Beach was ranked 3rd highest among 85 Firewise community groups** in Marin County in terms of the total volume of vegetation removed.

- Muir Beach removed 784 cubic yards of potential wildfire fuel.
- Muir Beach ranked 4th in the number of household pickups.
- Our cubic yardage per pickup was 5.3, almost 50% higher than the county average of 3.7.

Continued on next page

FIRE SAFETY continued from previous page

“We need to keep up and step up our efforts in 2026 to stay ahead of vegetation growth, protect our structures, and continuously reduce our individual and community risk,” says Don Piotter, Firewise Team Lead.

Firewise in Action: Neighbors Helping Neighbors

Muir Beach’s level of participation reflects a broader culture of shared responsibility that defines our community’s approach to wildfire preparedness. At the heart of this effort is the Muir Beach Firewise Team, a community-led group dedicated to reducing wildfire risk through collaboration, education, and action.

The team is officially recognized by Firewise USA, a national program managed by the National Fire Protection Association. Firewise communities commit to assessing local hazards, creating defensible space, hardening homes against fire, and investing volunteer time each year to maintain and improve safety standards.

Rather than relying solely on fire departments, the Firewise model empowers neighbors to work together—making wildfire resilience a shared, ongoing effort.

“As Muir Beach residents, we all benefit from supporting FireWise efforts,” says Klaus Poppensieker. “Our collective work helps make our homes and families safer and we have a shared responsibility for our beautiful little village.”

Firewise Team News

This spring, the Muir Beach Firewise Team is pleased to welcome its newest member, Steve Marshank, to the group. Other members are Don Piotter (lead), David Taylor, Klaus Poppensieker, Pamela Tom Swarts, and Chris Gove.

The Firewise team is now included on the new MBVFD website! If you haven’t checked it out yet, go to: <https://www.muirbeachfire.com/preparedness>

We are supporting Measure M that would provide critical support for Muir Beach’s fire protection services. The measure would impose an annual \$386.00 parcel tax for 10 years, with the amount of \$61,374 to be raised annually, and with annual CPI adjustment.

VOTE Yes on Measure M on June 2.

Looking Ahead to Fire Season

For Muir Beach, that collaboration is clearly paying off. The community’s strong participation in programs like Chipper Days not only reduces immediate fire risk, but also strengthens long-term resilience and can potentially help improve access to insurance options in fire-prone areas.

As another fire season approaches, the message is clear: small actions, taken together, can make a big difference.

Thank you, Muir Beach residents, for continuing to keep our community fire safe—and Firewise.

Spring Forage *By Zenko Montgomery, Tenzo (Head Cook) of Green Dragon Temple*

The farm season at Green Gulch has begun in earnest, with the first boxes of baby bok choy, red lace mustard, and arugula coming up to the kitchen this week. Along with it are a new crop of farmers - the biggest we've hosted since pandemic times – and an exuberant explosion of wild greenery throughout the valley. Driving my daughter to school, the manroot vines seem a tsunami in crest, about to sweep over us and the road in sun-seeking glory.

I've also been called by the pollen haze of spring to wander the gulch, glad that the fog has given us a few more weeks respite. Hiking this time of year brings a wild salad, picked from the trail's edge. Good medicine, and free to boot. Many of the plants are also invasive, non-native, or both- and you can help our native California species by eating them.

Maybe you've seen the gentle bobbing of little white bells above a green and juicy cluster of. The tri-corner leek is quite invasive and delicious, and takes prominence in this green borscht. The whole plant is edible and should be eaten. In addition, wild radish leaves, wood sorrel, and nettle bring bright, sour, spicy, and earthen notes. There's a feast at your feet, don't miss out this spring!

Green Borscht – 4 servings

4T butter (or oil)

A fistful of tri-corner leeks¹, washed well

trim the roots, remove any yellow leaves, and slice the whites + 3" up the stem

thin slice the remaining greens, keep separate, and reserve any flowers for garnish

1 small onion, small diced

1 small potato + 1 small carrot, scrubbed and large diced

1C cremini mushroom, quartered

1T salt + 1T white pepper

6 cloves garlic, thinly sliced

4C nice stock, your choice

A small tote (~4C) of radish, wood sorrel (sourgrass), and stinging nettle leaves²

Parsley, dill, foraged fennel tops (also invasive!), finely chopped

A hard boiled egg (halved or diced) + sour cream

Instructions:

Using gloves, thoroughly wash the nettles and remove any tough stems. Soak in a bowl of hot water for 1 minute, drain and roughly chop. Wash the remainder of the greens and roughly chop.

Prepare the remaining ingredients as outlined above.

Heat the oil or butter in a large stock pot over medium high heat. Add the diced leek whites and onion, sauté until they pick up a little color- ~5 minutes. Add potato, carrot, and mushrooms, salt + pepper, cooking a bit longer, stirring occasionally, until tender – maybe 10 more minutes. Add garlic + leek greens, and cook til fragrant, another minute or two.

Add stock and bring to a boil. Turn the heat down and simmer for 5-7 minutes, or until the vegetables are cooked, but not mushy.

Just before serving add the nettles, sorrel, and radish greens. Garnish with chopped herbs + leek flowers. Serve with chopped egg and sour cream.

¹ Gather by burying your fingers a bit into the earth and grabbing as close to the bulb as possible- grabbing the greens with detach them from the bulb.

² Wear gloves to gather! Boiling water breaks down the acid crystals, making it safe to eat. Many believe the stinging increases circulation and can help relieve inflammation, such as arthritis, and will sting themselves intentionally.

Yay Everybody! Springtime at Pelican Inn *continued from page 13*

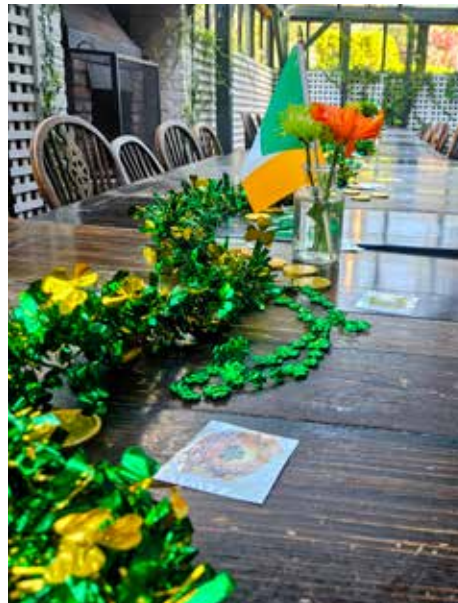
feels right at home here in Muir Beach. If you are looking for trail tips or local spots, he is your guy. Then there is Mason, who keeps things effortlessly relaxed while bringing an impressive academic background in marine biology. A recent graduate of UC Santa Cruz, he specialized in scientific diving and kelp forest ecology, so your server might also be able to tell you what is happening beneath the waves just down the road.

Of course, some things never change. If Kelly has ever taken care of you, you have probably heard her signature “Yay everybody!” It is a phrase that has become part of the fabric of the Pelican Inn experience and one that tends to stay with people long after they leave. As one guest, Lindsey Deaton, shared: “Regardless of the order or question, it was always concluded with ‘Yay everybody!’ It has become part of our daily experience, sharing the joy of ‘Yay everybody.’ I have even included it as part of my vows in my wedding ring.” We could not have said it better ourselves.

This spring has already given us a couple of memorable celebrations. Our St. Paddy’s Day gathering brought the lawn to life, with the Raven Hill Trio playing lively Irish tunes while guests enjoyed the fresh coastal air and a pint or two. Not long after, we hosted our second annual Easter Egg Hunt, followed by a brunch that leaned into all the classics including ham, deviled eggs, bright seasonal salads, and carrot cake. A special thank you goes out to our neighbor Davina Galli, who brought plenty of joy and photo opportunities as our Easter Bunny.



Kelly and Mason



We have also added a simple but much requested offering. Firewood bundles are now available for \$25. It is one more way to enjoy those foggy coastal evenings on the beach.

Looking ahead, the calendar is filling up quickly. On May 16th, we are excited to host Muir Beach Syndicate. Their sound is something special. It is an instrumental blend of jam band improvisation and smooth jazz that feels both relaxed and immersive. Think a bit of Grateful Dead inspired exploration mixed with a laid back lounge groove. It is the kind of music that invites you to settle in, stay awhile, and maybe order another round.

This is just the beginning, as we will have plenty of live music throughout the season, so it is worth keeping an eye on our website for upcoming performances.

Father’s Day on June 21st will mark our first BBQ on the lawn of the season. We are keeping it classic and satisfying with burgers, bangers on a bun, and beer specials for dads, all paired with live music that will be announced soon. It is shaping up to be an easygoing and family friendly way to spend the afternoon.

And finally, in response to many requests, our Sunday Roast is officially making its return starting June 28th. Each Sunday, we will offer a carvery style lunch designed for lingering. Expect roast meats, a variety of salads, mashed potatoes, gravy, green beans, and of course cake. It all begins at 11:00 am, with the last seating at 3:00 pm, and is priced at \$39. Whether you come in after a morning hike or make it your main event, it is the kind of meal that turns into a tradition.

As always, we feel incredibly lucky to be part of this community, tucked between the hills and the ocean with a front row seat to it all. Whether you are joining us for a special event, a quiet pint, or a long brunch with friends, we look forward to welcoming you in.

Yay everybody!
We will see you soon.



—Chelsea Swinea
Hospitality Manager, Pelican Inn

The Speaker Series *By Harvey Pearlman and Susannah Kennedy*

The Speaker Series is a new lineup of talks sponsored by Muir Beach Friends and Neighbors on spring and autumn Fridays.

Our first speaker was Ron Rosano, who engaged everyone with tales, slides and exciting video from his experience going into space on the Virgin Galactic Spaceflight expedition.

Next came a delightful evening with Mia Monroe, retired National Park Service Ranger, on the biology and evolutionary fate of Monarch Butterflies. There used to be millions every winter in Muir Beach – even covering the breadth of Pacific Way after storms and resembling colorful clusters of leaves on the grove trees. Now there are barely enough to count.

Mia is helping inspire a citizen project to re-plant nectar flowers to nourish the butterflies and entice them back.

UPCOMING 2026 SPEAKER SERIES DATES:

June 5, Maurice Conti, *The History and Future of A.I.*

Sept 11, Dana Frankoff, *A Night of Ocean Awareness*, films and conversation

Oct 23, Judith Redwing Keyssar, *Last acts of Kindness: Conversations and plans regarding Living and Dying*

Nov 20, Scott Sampson, *Human Exceptionalism: The Real Root of the Ecological Crisis and What You Can Do About It*

And for the 2027 series, we will be exploring: parenting and screens, local documentary filmmakers, Being your own Geriatrician, the philosophy of mediation, Buddhism in the everyday, Chinese medicine, Ayurvedic medicine, environment and the future. Keep on eye on Laurie's newsletter for dates.

Friends & Neighbors used to be called the Elderberries but we rebranded as an 'all-aged' berries group dedicated to fostering pathways of local community – the weekly bistro, movie nights, speaker series, annual community dinner and upcoming Open Mic nights.

Everyone is welcome, ages 7 to 97... . We meet on the 3rd Saturdays of the month at 10am in the MBCC. Come by for a meeting. Check us out. No commitment necessary.



UK Employment Opportunities

Submitted by Leslie Riehl

AQUATIC FOWL OPPORTUNITIES

Want a New Challenge?

RETRAIN AS A SWAN

TWO DAY COURSES
No previous experience necessary

Full Tuition in:

- Honking
- Gliding serenely
- Eating bits of bread
- Breaking a man's arm

Earn up to £40 working on one of Britain's illustrious waterways
Book online at Cygnumjobs-4-u.net

We have a Vacancy for a Level 3 **Moorhen**

20-30k pro rata depending on age and experience. 38hr p/w

We are an established waterway in the heart of Milton Keynes and we are looking to appoint a motivated person to be a moorhen 5 days a week. The successful candidate will have...

- **Excellent floating skills**
- **Waterproof feathers**
- **Experience of bobbing up and down on chilly canal systems**
- **A red beak**

If you like freshwater and are looking for something different, then send your cv to riverfowlHR@MKwaterways.org

Only shortlisted birds will be called to interview

Sorry to get your gander up ... but this is just a viral spoof!

Attunement in Motion

This piece is an adaptation of Coastal Reins' monthly series Coastal Rituals, a collection of stories from the barn, reflections on the landscapes and seasons of coastal Marin, and rituals for those drawn to horses, nature, and a slower rhythm of living.

At Muir Beach, spring has a way of making itself known all at once. This year, an early stretch of warmth pushed everything forward. Grasses climbed quickly up the hillsides, forget-me-nots appeared in soft blue clusters along Redwood Creek Trail, and the horses began shedding their winter coats sooner than expected.

This reemergence of movement reminds us that our time with horses extends beyond the horse itself. As Ocean Riders, we don't simply ride through the landscape; we learn to move with it. Horses are attuned to everything around them, from subtle shifts in wind to the presence of other animals or passing hikers. You feel it in the way they pause, in the slight lift of their head, in the decision to step forward or wait. Through them, our attention widens. We begin to notice more, and to move with greater awareness of the world we're part of. That awareness naturally expands to the land itself and has shaped not just how we ride but how we care for the land we ride on.

The ranch sits within the Redwood Creek watershed, and every decision, from manure management to pasture rotation, is made with the long-term health of that ecosystem in mind. The historic dairy buildings, the surrounding flora and fauna, the horses themselves, and the people who come to learn from and connect with this land are all part of an intertwined whole. This interconnectedness becomes especially visible in the relationships that sustain the ranch.

Nearby, Green Gulch Farm composts horse manure and returns it to the soil, creating a cycle that supports both farm and ranch. It is a simple exchange, but one that reflects a shared ethic.

Residents of Muir Beach are part of this system too. Whether tending small gardens, walking the trails, or paying close attention to the watershed after winter rains, there is a collective understanding that this landscape depends on participation. Stewardship here is not held by any one group. It is something practiced across a community.



The horses help offer a way of understanding that connection. They do not move through the world in isolation or with force alone. They adjust constantly to terrain, weather, and one another, reading the environment as carefully as they read us. Riding here is like a conversation, one shaped by trust and response more than control. Their strength comes from this sensitivity, from being in relationship with what surrounds them.

Spending time among them begins to shift how you see the place itself. The ranch is not just where the horses live, but a meeting point of histories, ecosystems, and people. The old dairy structures, the creek, the pasturelands, the wildlife, and the community are all in exchange with one another.

This season also marks a meaningful transition for us as we step into a new role as board members of Ocean Riders. It feels like a natural extension of the work we've already been drawn towards caring not just for the horses, but for the broader ecosystem that makes this place thrive.

To be part of this corner of the coast is to be folded into that system.

And above all, it leaves a sense of gratitude. Not only for the beauty of the place, but for the relationships that sustain it, between neighbors, between land and animal, and between all those who choose, in small and steady ways, to care for it together.

Read more at: <https://coastalreins.substack.com/>

—Olivia Lowe & Nika Peganoff



MUIRNopolY by Elliot Leis (10 yrs). May be hard to see all the properties, but there are some hilarious gems in here.

Building Together: New Firehouse Update & Community Potluck

On Thursday evening, April 23rd, the MBVFA Fundraising Committee hosted an information session at the Muir Beach Community Center on the new firehouse. The evening included a potluck dinner and a presentation by **Don Piotter** and **Danny Hobson**, both members of the Fundraising Advisory Committee. Don covered the reasons for constructing a new firehouse, the funding requirements, and funding

sources. Danny Hobson addressed how people in our community can participate in our fundraising efforts through contributions, connection and collaboration. After the presentation, Fire Chief **Chris Gove**, Assistant Fire Chief **David Taylor**, MBVFA President **Denise Lamott**, and Firefighter & Firehouse General Contractor/Project Manager **Jon Rauh** responded to questions from attendees. In the room, one could

feel the warm energy of community members in support of the new firehouse and the fundraising effort. Thank you to everyone who brought dishes to share, and to **Gabe Leis and Joe's Taco Lounge** for donating all the burritos.

The evening ended with a generous on-the-spot donation of over \$6,000, bringing the fundraising total since mid-March to an even \$150,000. We are off to a great start toward our \$1.5 million fundraising goal!

Please contribute in whatever way you can!

Thank you! If you have any questions, please contact fundraising@muirbeachfire.com

– MBVFA Fundraising Advisory Committee



Denise and Ellen adding red paint to make the fire hydrant fill up with another \$150,000. Photo by David Taylor



Ways to Donate

- QR Code: pay with Venmo, Paypal or Credit Card
- Online: muirbeachfire.com (scroll down to the Donate Button)
- Check: Payable to Muir Beach Volunteer Fire Association mail to MBVFA, 73 Seacape Drive, Muir Beach, CA 94965
- Stock or wire transfer (for info, contact pnbrannan@gmail.com)
- Corporate matching (MBVFA participates in Benevity)
- The Muir Beach Volunteer Firefighters' Association is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit. All donations are tax- deductible as allowed by law.



Photo by Laurie Piel