



Wandering & Wondering

John Maybury

LET THERE BE LIGHT

I really enjoyed the Fourth of July sound-and-light show: creative airbursts followed by thunderous explosions. What I did NOT like was the ear-splitting “salutes” (everything from cherry bombs up to M-1000s, with varying amounts of flash powder), which just scare man and beast but produce no enjoyable displays. (If you want to know more about black-market fireworks, the Internet has pictures and descriptions.) It was clear that our local law enforcement was unable to contain widespread deployment of illegal fireworks in multiple locations. The Linda Mar Beach “safe and sane” zone was a joke, as locals and out-of-towners swarmed to the beach to light bonfires, set off fireworks, and befoul the ocean. A new feature on the Fourth was bright orange hot-air balloons drifting across Linda Mar. They looked exotic, but I worried about them setting down on a dry hillside and starting a fire. So as we now begin our annual ritual of complaining about fireworks (a discussion that never seems to lead to a solution but certainly creates lively comments on my Pacifica Riptide blog), I commend my neighbors who cleaned up after their fireworks shows ended. I heard folks over on lower Alicante and the cul-de-sacs using power tools to clear the debris. More power to them!

“ARKANSAS BY THE SEA”

My recent “Nuisance Neighbor” item on cleaning up Pacifica and its lifestyles of the not-so-rich-and-famous has drawn interesting email to my inbox. Here’s a newcomer to town I would like to introduce, longtime radio announcer Ric “The Rat” Mancuso. He writes:

•“I recently moved to Pacifica (Sharp Park) and have found this community, well, let me say that’s what’s not here, is a sense of community. I have lived in the Russian River area near Guerneville and found its wild and redneck side compatible with forward and progressive-thinking folks in the community. There was this sense of ‘We can get along and help each other in times of crisis and clean up the trash and empower people to

take some pride in their neighborhoods.”

•“Here there is a different scenario. It’s Arkansas by the Sea. People have crap all over their yards, smoke too much, speed down the streets going the wrong way, and generally don’t have any regard for civic involvement. There are some good people on my block who are fearful of the terrorists who run wild with their wacko behavior. The police department is a joke. They don’t do anything to enforce the laws or shape positive outcomes. I also noticed the police have a phobia about Highway 1. I never see them giving a ticket on the highway, only little traffic light ambushes here and there. Even Caltrans is invisible to fix road signs propped up by sawhorses.”

•“People can do better if they value themselves as active citizens, mentors, volunteers, or just being respectful of their neighbors. I know this is a tall order in today’s world. Individualism has eroded common sense. How can we change this habitual sloughing off of duty and conscience? It’s easy to come down on all the bad stuff, because it conditions us to be judgmental. So I’ll point the finger at myself and say, ‘I must help make a change or be silent and suffer the consequences of individualism.’ Yes, one can make a change, but two can do even better. Well, anyway, there is some really good Mexican food in town. Thanks for hearing me rant. I need to get out in this town and stir some things up.”

LINDA MAR SECURITY GUARDS

Since July 1, Linda Mar Shopping Center has hired security guards from Universal Protection Service of San Francisco to walk the property and hand out flyers to merchants saying that guards “are available 24 hours a day to investigate suspicious activity, assist in dealing with difficult customers or transients, or any other security-related concerns.” For any problems or concerns, contact the security company at 650-520-6060. Alan Wald reported on Pacifica Riptide: “I spoke to the guards. They say they were specifically told to watch for people who park in the lot and then go to the beach.”

SWAMI SEZ

“Aspire to inspire before you expire.” (Eugene Bell, Jr.)

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