



Wandering & Wondering

John Maybury

RIPPLE EFFECT

The City of Pacifica is struggling to survive in these hard financial times, but one institution is still doing well and showing the community how to generate interest and income. Brink Pool (formerly Oceana Pool) keeps kids and adults busy year-round, with recreational swimming, school teams, water aerobics, after-school activities, individual instruction, and tournaments. The big regional swim meets over the winter bring in competitors plus their families and supporters to fill Pacifica's motel rooms and restaurants. Surprisingly, nationwide studies show that more than two-thirds of non-users of recreational facilities say they receive some benefit from publicly supported community resources like swimming pools and athletic fields. Benefits cited in surveys include: keeping kids off the streets, health and fitness, affordable public access for all income levels, personal well-being, social and environmental payoffs, relaxation, stress relief, learning teamwork and healthy competition, creating stronger community, quality of life, teaching family values, and increasing property values.

MASALA REOPENS

Carl May writes: "It took longer than expected, but the Masala Pakistani/Indian restaurant reopened in the north end of Eureka Square at the beginning of the year. They are open for lunch and dinner, with a break in mid-afternoon. The same low prices they had at Rockaway

are still in effect. Because this is one of my go-to places for a less expensive dinner in town, I'm selfishly hoping people who like ethnic food will give them a try and keep them in mind." Masala is open daily (except Tuesday) from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. and 5 to 9 p.m. Lunch buffet is \$7. The menu offers three appetizers, nine a la carte entrees, four combination plates, soups, salads, desserts, and beverages. Free wi-fi available.

BOSTON BILL'S

Good news: Boston Bill's cheesesteak and chowder house on Highway 1 in Rockaway has added a second grill to keep up with demand. The food is delicious, but now wait time should be cut in half. After discussing the possibility of a Red Sox and Giants World Series, I got down to asking William (Boston Bill) McGowan about his cheesesteaks. He said, "There are many schools of thought on the perfect Philadelphia cheesesteak. The two most famous, Pat's and Geno's in Philly, are virtually the same sandwich. The only difference is that one is super-thin sliced and then chopped on the grill, which is how we do it. The other is large, very thin slices, no chopping."

BRING BACK THE BERM

Speaking of things alongside Highway 1, I heard from Edward L. Barber: "I've read your column in the Pacifica Tribune for some time now and enjoy the ideas you present. Regarding the highway widening project for the Vallemar intersection, I wondered why an overpass can't be considered. The berm for it was built there over 50 years ago and it just sits there, never having been used. It would probably be cheaper than buying out the businesses in Rockaway Beach, and would take care of the traffic problems at that intersection. I attended the Caltrans meeting and the City Council to suggest this idea, but the people there were noncommittal. I would like someone to tell me YES that's a good idea or NO that's

a bad idea, rather than ignoring me and making me feel like they have already made up their minds and are just going through a dog-and-pony show to make citizens feel they have had their chance to put in their two cents."

UNIVERSAL HEALTHCARE

Contact State Senator Leland Yee to encourage him to vote for SB 810, the California Universal Healthcare Act. On Thursday, January 19, the Senate Appropriations Committee voted to send SB 810 to the Senate floor for a vote. The vote must take place by January 31. If the Senate approves SB 810, the legislation will then move to the State Assembly for consideration. The outcome of the Senate vote is unclear. SB 810 will deliver health care to everyone and spend our resources wisely by removing the insurance industry from our lives. Info: Don Bechler, Chair - Single Payer Now, 415-695-7891

SWAMI SEZ

Just one spoonful of honey can help quiet a nighttime cough better than over-the-counter cough syrups or suppressants. (According to research study of 100 children by Pennsylvania physician Ian Paul, M.D., as reported in AARP Bulletin, November 2011)

SITESEER

- Good sounds: urbanears.com
- Good grammar: odlt.org
- Good neighbors: barkingdogs.net
- Good chocolate: chocomize.com

MAYBURRITOVILLE

- Meandering: LomaPrieta.SierraClub.org
- Copyediting: Goofbuster.com
- Blogging: PacificaRiptide.com
- Email: mayburrito@goofbuster.com