

## **MIDCOAST ALARM**

Harald Herrmann of Moss Beach used his local NextDoor neighborhood forum to share a list of large-scale developments at different planning/approval stages on the Midcoast. The projects include two hotels in Montara (13 and 31 units, respectively); Big Wave, an office park with eight buildings, including housing, boat storage, and 500 parking spaces along Airport Road between Moss Beach and Princeton; MidPen's 71 units of so-called affordable housing on open space between Montara and Moss Beach; a multi-unit complex at Etheldore and California streets in Moss Beach; a multi-unit complex, including a three-story, 12-unit Mavericks apartment building in El Granada; the 63-home Pacific Ridge development next to Half Moon Bay High School; a 46-room Best Western hotel in Half Moon Bay; a 148-room Hyatt Hotel with Conference Center plus 2,700-square-foot retail building and 195 parking spots in Half Moon Bay; 100-plus units of high-density housing in Half Moon Bay; plus annual infill of homes and second units. Add a forecasted 2 million visitors per year, flooding in from Highway 1 and Highway 92. The Midcoast is already overburdened with heavy traffic. The combination of two major developments (Big Wave and MidPen) plus two or more proposed traffic lights in Moss Beach (according to a Connect the

Coastside report) would gridlock Highway 1 between Montara and El Granada. Midcoast residents concerned about housing density, traffic congestion, disaster preparedness, and impacts to the environment are asked to contact the San Mateo County Board of Supervisors ([DHorsley@smcgov.org](mailto:DHorsley@smcgov.org) and [SRosendahl@smcgov.org](mailto:SRosendahl@smcgov.org)), Half Moon Bay City Council, and Midcoast Community Council.

### **A LEAGUE OF THEIR OWN**

Of all the places in the world you would least expect to see people playing baseball, it might be in the Hamas-led Palestinian territory known as the Gaza Strip, wedged between Israel and Egypt. What makes it even more unusual, Gaza baseball is the exclusive province of a group of young Palestinian women, who are learning to play the quintessentially American game on soccer fields, throwing tennis balls underhand. They hit with bats made by a local carpenter out of cypress trees. They use orange plastic traffic cones to mark the bases. They have only one real baseball glove, an Easton “Black Magic” model, but their coach Mahmoud Tafesh, a former soccer and volleyball player, got a tailor to make replicas of the Easton mitt with sponges inside for padding. Under Hamas rule, the women are encouraged to play sports, but they must wear hijabs (head scarves) and play only with other women. (Source: Rory Jones and Abu Bakr

Bashir, Wall Street Journal, March 21)

### **BUMPER STICKER WISDOM**

Gary Lippman was wandering and wondering in the East Bay recently, when he pulled up behind a car with two interesting bumper stickers. One said: TURN LEFT AT THE NEXT ELECTION. The other said: MALL WART, A PLACE TO BUY CHEAP PLASTIC CRAP.

### **SWAMI SEZ**

"If you love what you do, you'll never work a day in your life." (Anonymous; forwarded by Pacifica Tribune proofreader Jean Headley-Darmody)

### **MAYBURRITOVILLE**

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