

## Wandering and Wondering

By John Maybury *Pacifica Tribune Columnist San Jose Mercury News*

Posted:

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### PROMOTE PACIFICA

Ken Miles emails: "Good comment in your Wandering & Wondering of February 9. I agree with you and Victor Spano about Pacifica capitalizing on Highway 1 traffic. Pacifica is sitting on a river of tourist money that could be harvested to fix our infrastructure and attract tourists. More trees could be planted, overhead wires buried underground, potholes paved, etc. With our scenic coast and hills, we could become a Sausalito or Carmel, and property values should rise. What could be done now by a creative City Council, Planning Commission, and Chamber of Commerce:

- Annual Whale Appreciation Month and Whale Fest (like Fog Fest) from mid-March to Mid-April when pods of whales visit our coast. Benches and viewing areas on the Rockaway Headland bluff north of Linda Mar Beach.
- 50-foot statue of the Lady of Pacifica (Lady of Peace), as designed by Walpole for the Pan American World's Fair at Treasure Island in 1936, on the Rockaway Headland bluff. This could be a unique landmark like the large statue of Jesus above Rio de Janeiro. Pacifica Peace People could support this.
- An old fishing boat at the entrance to Rockaway Beach, west side of Highway 1, similar to the boat at the entrance to Princeton Harbor.
- Easy-to-see signs along Highway 1 noting where to find trailheads for GGNRA national parks in Pacifica. As it is now, people driving through Pacifica don't even know they can stop and hike on Sweeney Ridge, Milagra Ridge, and Mori Point.
- Ferris wheel and merry-go-round with Playland-at-the-Beach types of restaurants and activities.
- Palm trees lining both sides of Highway 1 at Linda Mar Beach and Rockaway Beach.
- Winery and brewery with tastings and tours right on Highway 1."

### ASSISTANT CITY MANAGER SALARY OUTRAGE

A local watchdog emails: "I read your Tribune note about a new position offered, assisting the City Manager, I believe at a handsome salary. (Editor: \$13K to \$15K per MONTH!) Curious, I went to the website [TransparentCalifornia.com](http://TransparentCalifornia.com) and viewed Pacifica city salaries. More curious, I went to the federal courts website for various judges' salaries (and they don't get dental insurance!)." The comparisons she found are shocking. See the full story with supporting documents on [PacificaRiptide.com](http://PacificaRiptide.com).

### SENATOR HILL TO COASTAL CONSERVANCY

State Senator Jerry Hill has been appointed to the California Coastal Conservancy, the state agency established to help preserve and protect coastal resources. "I've enjoyed the beauty of the coast throughout my lifetime, and welcome the opportunity to ensure that all can enjoy our state's wonderful

coastline for generations to come," said Hill (D-San Mateo/Santa Clara counties) following the announcement of his appointment by Senate President Pro Tem Darrell Steinberg. Hill is now one of three state senators and three Assembly members who provide legislative oversight to the conservancy and participate in its activities. The California Legislature created the conservancy in 1976 to work as an intermediary between local governments, citizens, and the private sector to improve, protect, and enhance coastal resources of the state, from Oregon to Mexico. The conservancy serves as a repository for coastal lands. Under the state Public Resources Code, the conservancy is required to preserve lands in concert with the California Coastal Act. Preservation efforts by the conservancy can also go forward under certified local coastal programs and under the San Francisco Bay Plan, as implemented by the San Francisco Bay Conservation and Development Commission.

## LINDA MAR MEDIANS

Rick Bauman emails: "On those medians, I did a little investigative work. I went down to Public Works and spoke to a couple of people in the know there. Looks like those medians are a pilot project intended to be totally volunteer. But admittedly it has not totally worked out that way. The city has supplied many man hours to get it done. The end game is that volunteers will care for the spaces, and more areas around Pacifica are targeted for the same. Hopefully, the end result will be more beautiful Pacifica with a vested interest from locals. On a different note, Public Works informed me that a grant is in the offing for some paving to take place on Linda Mar Boulevard from De Solo to Adobe this spring. Woo hoo! All is good."

## PACIFICA FOOD QUEST

Anonymous emails: "Tourists seek authentic and unknown places, and we have some of them in Pacifica, such as Pacifica Thai. If Gilroy can get publicity and crowds over garlic, we also need a unique theme to capture public interest. Maybe a dining event could be themed around the beaches or the pier. By the way, who has the best Mexican food in Pacifica? One of my life's quests is to find the best chile rellenos, and the winner so far was at a restaurant near the truck stop just before the Grapevine!"

## UNQUANTUM PHYSICS

Eric Reiter emails: "We are celebrating my unquantum physics article being published in a peer-reviewed journal: Progress in Physics. The article title is: New Experiments Call for a Continuous Absorption Alternative to Quantum Mechanics--The Unquantum Effect. It should appear soon, free to download online, at [ptep-online.com](http://ptep-online.com) or see my website at [unquantum.net](http://unquantum.net)."

## WI-FI IN PORT

"Wi-fi is coming soon to Pillar Point Harbor and Oyster Point Marina. The board approved installing wi-fi. I've been working on this for 14 months and I'm so happy we're finally going to offer harbor/marina users and small-business owners this important service. This will be great for harbor/marina tenants, fishermen selling local seafood from boats at Pillar Point, commuters waiting for a ferry at Oyster Point, and recreational users." (Sabrina Brennan, San Mateo County Harbor Commissioner)

## ODDS AND ENDS

Stories posted recently on my blog ([PacificaRiptide.com](http://PacificaRiptide.com)): scientists comb West Coast beaches for evidence of Fukushima radiation leaks; Caltrans fumbles latest bad news on Bay Bridge leaks, rust,

cracks, and bad welds; housing development destroys greenbelt on north side of Brotherhood Way near Lake Merced; assisted-living project falls through, Oddstad parcel back on the market; Pacifica pays third-highest rates in San Mateo County for sewer service at water treatment plant; Paul Donahue photographs Montara Mountain flora and fauna; NASA monitors California drought; El Granada's Quarry Park gains 478-acre open space.

## INNER EDIROT

Laurie Frater emails: "I don't know whether you know this, but the category described as 'using an apostrophe for plural's' is known in Britain as a greengrocer's apostrophe because of the surfeit of handwritten signs outside stores and stalls selling fruits and vegetables that say APPLE'S and ORANGE'S. It's become a standing joke!"

## SWAMI SEZ

"Try to be as nice a person as your dog thinks you are." (Kay Niner)

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