



# The Portola Valley Post

Spring 2008

## New and Exciting Parks & Rec Projects

The objective of the Parks & Recreation Committee is to develop, promote, and maintain quality recreational and community enrichment programs, recreational facilities, and park areas in the Town of Portola Valley. That's a job that's kept us pretty busy lately—and it looks like we may be getting even busier in the coming year.

We're working on a new field use priority & fee structure, and plan to work with Town staff to create a database for tracking field use. Ford Field will be seeing a major renovation in the near future, including a new backstop and dugouts. We'll be taking an active role in the ad hoc committee that will be working on a redevelopment plan for Triangle Park. Even more exciting, we'll be helping to develop a classes and programs policy for the Town Center's new Community Hall. We'll also be back at work on a dog park that fits both the residents' lifestyles and the Town's land-use concerns.

The new playground is open and is proving very popular with Town families. One thing that's been on everyone's mind lately is SHADE. A big leaf maple will be planted in the center of the playground to provide a shady place to sit, and a new redwood will be added outside the fence to shelter the

play structure's slide from the sun. While we are waiting for the oaks outside the fence to grow, we will be installing some temporary shade over the sandbox to keep kids safer from sunburns and hot sand while they're playing.

The Town Center softball field opened May 3rd. The new backstop went through a lengthy design process, but has resulted in a structure that meets safety requirements and should not impinge too much on anyone's view. Russ Miller soccer field will be closed over the summer while it undergoes renovation, and will re-open for the fall season.



*Fun at the new playground*

We look forward to the official launching with the grand opening of the new Town Center.

*Erica Hughes, Chair*

## Town Center Takes Shape

Driving past the new Town Center project these days, one can grasp its measure and promise. The Library, Community Hall, and administration building are nearing their final form and appearance. The new baseball field is playable, and the playground has been open and heavily used for a good month. With some hard work, the building interiors, the

soccer field, tennis courts, final grading and landscaping will be ready for a scheduled fall ribbon-cutting event. The three-year, \$20M fund-raising campaign is nearing completion with a recent capstone \$1.4M gift from the Cagan Family. On time, on budget, and fully funded will be a wonderful way to open our new Town Center!

## At Home with the Hens in Portola Valley



*A Polish Chicken*

*Sara Jorgensen photo*

Barred Rocks, Buff Orpingtons, Frizzles, Araucana, Australorps, Silkies, Rhode Islands – these are just a few of the types of chickens kept in backyard flocks throughout Portola Valley. Bird lovers keep flocks of chickens for a variety of reasons ranging from the practical consideration of eggs, to the fact that they just love having them around. For many owners, chickens provide a deep satisfaction that harkens back to the good old days when eggs came warm, fresh from the coop.

Adaline Jessup has lived in Portola Valley since Westridge Drive ended at her driveway. Back in 1956 her son Judd decided to keep chickens as a 4-H project. They built a pen and started with 23 chickens. Judd would let the birds out of the coop when he came home from school. They loved the freedom and soon refused to go back into the pen, choosing instead to roost in the trees at nightfall. Unfortunately, a Great Horned Owl discovered them and only nine were left. This tragedy aside, the 4-H experience was the beginning of Adaline's love of chickens. Through the years she has maintained a flock of four to six, combined with a golden pheasant or a couple of doves. As a naturalist, her

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## portolavalley.net – The Next Generation

The lure of free chocolate at Town Hall in exchange for input on the new Town website didn't quite arouse the response from residents that Stacie Nerdahl had hoped. Along with Town Administrator Angela Howard and Vice Mayor Ann Wengert, Stacie is charged with the challenge of managing the update and is working with a Bay Area consultant, Two Fish West, to enhance the site.

The current site was developed from scratch about five years ago and the Town has outgrown it. A primary goal for that site was to give residents easy access to agendas, minutes, news and the calendar while minimizing maintenance needs, so that it would be easier for a non-IT trained staff member to maintain the site. Michele Stern, a resident volunteer, graciously served as the web team leader until recently, and the staff is deeply indebted to her for her countless hours of efforts in maintenance and improvements to the site.

The residents' feedback indicates that it takes too many clicks to access information, so that will be streamlined, making it easier to find what you're looking for on the new site. Some of the other anticipated enhancements include a green section incorporating and expanding the existing green features, maybe featuring some local green projects and adding more links to green information.

In addition, the calendar is expected to be more complete and easier to access, the committees section will be expanded and include ad hoc committee information, and it is likely that soccer enthusiasts will be able to enroll online for Portola Valley leagues.

Currently the scope of the project is being defined and the Council will consider the proposed scope at the May 14 meeting. It's hoped that the new site will be completed by fall 2008.

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## Denise Gilbert Joins Planning Commission

The Town of Portola Valley welcomes Dr. Denise Gilbert, the latest addition to the Town Planning Commission. Her term started on February 6, 2008. After writing a letter of interest and participating as one of six candidates interviewed by the Town Council, Dr. Gilbert is pleased to have been appointed to the five-member commission.

As an avid hiker and longtime resident, Dr. Gilbert values the town's longstanding legacy of living side by side with nature. "I love the rural quality of Portola Valley and the appreciation its residents have for the surroundings including the landscape and the native plants and animals" she said.

Denise Gilbert plans to apply her many years of business experience to her new position as Planning Commissioner. Her analytical approach will help her to provide an appreciation for the long-term impact of decisions made by the commission. As well, she looks forward to balancing individual interests with those of the broader community, especially when dealing with potentially sensitive issues.

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## Two Surprising Features

The Historic Resources Committee is looking forward to the opening of the new library and the Community Heritage Center, located just inside the entrance to the library. After more than two decades of being housed in out of the way places, the Town archives will soon be readily available to everyone. In addition to an extensive collection of huge maps, nearly 3,000 photographs, file drawers full of newspaper clippings and documents, the new room will also house two perhaps surprising features.

One is a seismograph, constructed by a local committee of volunteers. It will measure tremors far beyond our own fault. This seems appropriate since one purpose of the new center is to avoid as much as possible the dangers of the San Andreas.

The other is an assortment of 118 works by seventy-four local authors, present and past, ranging alphabetically from Bill Atkinson to Patricia Zelver. Included in the collection are subjects such as children's books, mysteries, self-help advice, and scientific studies. Names of all known authors and all their known works will be posted in the Heritage Center.

The committee invites all local authors to identify themselves to us. (We do have a small budget to purchase books but always appreciate donations.) Please contact us at [historicrosources@portolavalley.net](mailto:historicrosources@portolavalley.net).

*Nancy Lund, Chair*



**Town of Portola Valley**  
765 Portola Road  
Portola Valley, CA 94028  
(650) 851-1700  
[townhall@portolavalley.net](mailto:townhall@portolavalley.net)

**Portola Valley Town Council**  
Maryann Moise Derwin, Mayor  
Ann Wengert, Vice Mayor  
Ted Driscoll  
Richard T. Merk  
Steve Toben

**The Portola Valley Post**  
Editor: Julia Dillingham  
([julia8925@sbcglobal.net](mailto:julia8925@sbcglobal.net))

Contributing Writer: Marti Tedesco  
Masthead Photo: Karen Vahtra

## From the Mayor

One of the few perks of this job is choosing from the many opportunities that fly over the transom, choices not entirely limited to monthly meetings with neighboring council members over chicken piccata at airport hotels. For example, in the past week I attended a solar conference in Los Gatos where I learned how small cities and towns might team up to develop their own public financing plans modeled after Berkeley's pilot program, and I saw first hand the evolving complexities of Stanford's waterways while walking a piece of the annual 20-mile "Walk the Farm" journey across Stanford lands sponsored by the Bill Lane Center for the Study of the North American West.

For me, it's essential to hear how other communities are approaching big issues like upcoming state mandate AB32, the Global Warming Solutions Act of 2006 that will require strict measures toward achieving substantial reductions of greenhouse gases. Photovoltaic panels pack quite a punch, but many Bay Area homeowners just can't afford the upfront costs, hence Berkeley First, the city's ground breaking solar financing initiative. When explaining the thinking behind this initiative, Cisco DeVries, former chief of staff to Berkeley Mayor Tom Bates, posed a question that resonated with me: "How do you set people free to do the right thing?"

I thought about this as I hiked with the intrepid group of

Stanford faculty and students through the breathtaking beauty of Jasper Ridge Biological Preserve and across Searsville Dam, particularly when one participant pointed out that every molecule of water that was present when the earth was formed is still present today in one form or another. Usable water, like fossil fuels, is a finite resource, so given the fact that our demand for water is outstripping supply, how does local government make it easier for folks to do the right thing and conserve? Perhaps we can take Berkeley's finance model and apply it not only to solar installations, but to grey water recycling and rainwater collection systems—teach people what works, remove the financial barriers for those who can't afford the costs and make the process fairly simple. In other words, set people free to do the right thing.

For more than four decades, Portola Valley has chosen to do the right thing for the environment, but as the stakes get higher, it will be less comfortable for all of us to do so. As one tasked with the responsibility to take the long view, I believe we as a community must meet the challenge but ultimately, it will be up to each of you. To quote from a notorious ghost of the sixties, at the end of the day you're either part of the solution or you're part of the problem. Call me a sentimental idealist, but I'm betting on the former.

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## Mosquito Season is Here

The San Mateo County Mosquito Abatement District says that there are 20 different species of mosquitoes in the county, each with their own preference for different types of standing water, hosts and time of day to bite. Now is the time to stop mosquitoes in their tracks by surveying your yard for standing water in such places as tree holes, water troughs, empty flower pots and buckets, plastic wading pools, roof gutters and catch basins. If you still have mosquitoes, call the District Office at 650/344-8592 and they will send out a representative to locate the source. For more information, go to [www.smcmad.org](http://www.smcmad.org).

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## Help CERPP Help You and Your Neighborhood

An award-winning program, CERPP (Citizens Emergency Response and Preparedness Program) consists of 25 divisions in the Woodside Fire Protection District -- i.e., towns of Portola Valley, Woodside and outlying unincorporated areas. In an emergency, CERPP divisions are trained to communicate with town or county emergency personnel. We need individuals with these specific skills:

**Animal Welfare Unit Volunteers:** We're looking for volunteers to join the emergency animal rescue unit for both large and small animals, to help out at the micro-chipping events and at emergency shelters during times of disaster, and to maintain the recovery database. Contact Stephanie MacDonald, [whoanow@pacbell.net](mailto:whoanow@pacbell.net), 650-867-8130.

**Web Writer/Content Manager:** Volunteer to help coordinate content for CERPP's soon-to-be-revised website. Technical web skills are NOT required. If you have experience writing or organizing content for the web and would like to be associated with this fun and high visibility activity, contact Bill Tagg, [billtagg@sbcglobal.net](mailto:billtagg@sbcglobal.net) 650-851-7606

**Volunteer for Volunteers:** CERPP's Volunteer Committee will focus on recruiting new volunteers and motivating existing volunteers. Get new people involved in CERPP and help organize fun CERPP events like the upcoming volunteer appreciation party. If you're a people person who enjoys interacting with friends and neighbors contact Marianne Plunder, [mplunder@finemtech.com](mailto:mplunder@finemtech.com), 650-851-9718.

**Writers/PR Volunteers:** Help CERPP to increase public awareness by creating fliers and press releases. Good writing skills required. Marketing, PR or advertising experience a plus. Contact Marianne Plunder, [mplunder@finemtech.com](mailto:mplunder@finemtech.com) 650-851-9781

**Information Help:** Help the Logistics Committee to develop a reference manual of supplies and assistance for use by CERPP personnel. Learn more about how to help yourself in an emergency as you gather data and work with those "in the know." Most work can be done from home. Contact Perry Samuels, [perrybsamuels@earthlink.net](mailto:perrybsamuels@earthlink.net), 650-851-1710.

*Marianne Plunder, President*

## Open Space Celebration - Blues and BBQ - Sept 14<sup>th</sup>



*Tina Molumphy, Jacques and Sandy Littlefield, Tom Ramies, and Chris Molumphy celebrate at Blues and BBQ for a good cause—open space.*

*Mike Bray photo*

One of our most treasured assets of Portola Valley is our open space. It surrounds us and enriches us. On Sunday, September 14<sup>th</sup>, 2008, come to the New Town Center to celebrate **open space** and the people that have helped support open space with the annual Blues and BBQ. A ‘Ribbon Cutting’ of the New Town Center will kick off the event in the early afternoon.

Live music will be performed and a barbeque dinner prepared by Portola Valley’s own Bianchini’s Market, appetizers, wine, beer, soda, climbing wall, pony rides, carnival attractions, and reptile petting zoo will be available.

This year’s honoree, Gary Nielsen, has been a long time resident of Portola Valley; in addition to his dedication to the cause of Open Space he has served the Town in a number of different aspects. He served as mayor, was on the finance committee, has been on the Town’s planning commission, and is a long time member of the PV Open Space committee. Not only does he serve as chair of the committee, he is passionate about exposing others to the wonders of our area. Keep an eye out for ticket registration in the mail.

*Sally Ann Reiss*

## PV Welcomes Debbie Miller

After a recent move from San Diego County, Debbie Miller has joined the Portola Valley Town staff as a planning technician. She has worked for both the cities of Solana Beach and Del Mar in San Diego. She brings with her the experience needed to review plans, help residents to understand set back requirements, fencing restrictions, zoning rules and the like. She will also help to issue business licenses for contractors working in the valley, local businesses and permits for horse owners.



*Marti Tedesco photo*

Debbie is excited about working in such a beautiful community as well as the upcoming move this summer to the new Town Center. She really enjoys the staff and feels that the move to their new facilities will create a truly welcoming environment for the whole community. Debbie’s relocation to northern California has also worked well for her because she loves to paddle outrigger canoes. She will be joining a local club and applying her skills to the waters of the San Francisco Bay in her off hours.

## Help Preserve Open Space

The Open Space Acquisition Advisory Committee meets to consider acquiring open space in Town in accordance with the objectives of the Town’s General Plan. The value of property for purchase is generally beyond the resources available in the Town’s Open Space Fund, so the Committee looks for smaller parcels to purchase, organizes fund raising campaigns, and facilitates tax effective conservation easements and gifting of appropriate properties where there are willing landowners. Most recently, the Committee, with Town Council approval, contributed open space funds toward the purchase of the Tevis property that preserves the sanctity of a portion of the Town’s Shady Trail near Westridge. The Committee is currently considering conservation easements as a means of preserving critical viewsheds on scenic parcels.



*Susan Thomas photo*

When the Town incorporated in 1964, an important goal was to preserve the beauty of the land

Committee membership is being increased from 5 to 7, and we are now recruiting new members. Committee work promises to be an interesting mix of property discussions and possible fund raising, and meetings are spaced to a relaxed schedule. Contact Sharon Hanlon at Town Hall (851-1701, ext 10). If you have questions contact Gary Nielsen, the current chair, at 851-1698.

## Then and Now—A Snapshot of 60 Years of Growth of Portola Valley

I am an admitted aerial photography freak and have collected current and old aerial pictures of our Town. The oldest of these is a 1948 aerial photo of the entire Town commissioned by the U.S. Forest Service. Being curious of the way it depicts changes in the Town, I have selected a small region of the Town to portray these changes graphically. Using online, August, 2007, high-resolution Google Earth imagery and the old B&W photo, I generated the composite view-- a peek at 60 years of really phenomenal growth, from bucolic pastures to the Town as we know it today.

See for yourself in the 2007 image the housing and roads in the southern Westridge-Cervantes area; the Sequoias and the Brookside subdivision in the lower right corner; Ormondale School in the center-right-hand side; and Christ Church and beginnings of the new Town Center in the left-center of the image. All these sites in the old image are pasture, orchards or open fields, typical of any country scene today, that is, where it is well away from an urban area.



As a help to position yourself from image to image, note the large stands of trees, pretty much the same as they were in 1948. Thus, when viewed at ground level, we still have a surprisingly country-like setting for the entire Town, though we're only a stone's throw from a really intensively-developed megalopolis with a population of 7 million people.

Well, another day, another perspective.

*Sheldon Breiner*

## Garden Club Blooms in Portola Valley

On March 11, the new Portola Valley Garden Club held their first meeting. The group was inspired in part by the Westridge Garden Club, which has met for many decades. Danna Breen, Brad Peyton, Susan Adams, Erica Hughes, Ruth Wilcox, Dale Lachman and others are leading this organization of gardening enthusiasts and welcome all who want to join. In addition to the subdivision of Westridge, the surrounding communities of Woodside and Ladera also have their own garden clubs.

"In Portola Valley, we don't really talk about your typical English garden," said Erica Hughes, Community Liaison for the club. "People in the Valley share a special interest in the gardening issues we have here, such as the use of native plants, working with a lot of shade under the oaks and dealing with all of the animals." The group intends to discuss these and other topics at their regular meetings. With the unique climate, soil and exposure in Portola Valley, much of the wisdom held by successful local gardeners is passed along by word of mouth. Portola Valley Garden Club members will be able to share tips, recommendations on plants, strategies for hillside gardening and water conservation.

According to Mrs. Hughes, residents in Portola Valley are very interested in how we manage wildlife in the garden as well. For instance, we have a plethora of deer which love to feast on certain plants. Thus, gardeners typically seek out plantings that are not as appetizing to deer. On the other hand, many gardeners want to grow specific varieties of plants so that their gardens attract birds and butterflies. Managing invasive plants can also be an issue on many

properties.

While club members will have much to discuss regarding their own properties, another important part of their charter is community service. The Garden Club has plans to work closely with the Town and all of its various committees to renovate Triangle Park at the intersection of Alpine and Portola Roads. Ideally, the area will become more of a Town garden than an open lawn area. The group hopes that this project, currently in its early stages, is completed around the time that Robert's Market opens nearby. Garden Club members are also looking forward to the completion of the Town Center where they plan to design and install seasonal decorations.

The club has held just two meetings so far and is also working to make sure they are properly established from a business standpoint. Work is underway to establish the group as a non-profit organization which will allow them to collect annual membership dues as well as to host fun, community-based events such as a seed exchange and a plant sale.

The Portola Valley Garden Club is open to all residents who have an interest in or experience with gardening in the Valley. To learn more, please contact any of the Committee members listed above or feel free to join their Yahoo group by sending an email to

[PVGardenClub-subscribe@yahogroups.com](mailto:PVGardenClub-subscribe@yahogroups.com).

*Marti Tedesco*

## Hens in the Valley

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greatest love is sitting with her chickens as they roam her yard in the late afternoon. "I like to sit and observe them," she says, "They all have their own personalities from the time they are baby chicks."

For Danna Breen, her love of chickens extends to the egg itself. "I just love the eggs," says Danna. "They are beautiful colors and have very hard shells. When you crack them, the yolk is bright orange. It makes cooking a treat." Danna has had flocks on and off through the years. She prefers the Araucanas because they lay beautiful blue and green eggs. Like Adaline, Danna and her children have enjoyed having the hens (and an occasional rooster) around the yard. In addition to their various personalities, the birds have a real affection for each other, often pairing up together. Watching them peck about in the long grass, or snuggle down into an odd part of the house, these chickens also bring a sense of fun and humor to whomever they touch. More than one chicken owner has had at least one favorite hen that followed them around, came in the house, and was a part of the family. Still others get great delight in naming the birds in their flock. Danna's current flock has all old fashioned names. Other owners have kept to different naming themes such as supermodels, athletes or famous politicians.

Still, owning chickens is a not all fun and games. There are many predators in Portola Valley such as raccoons, coyotes and owls. Special care must be taken to keep the flock safe especially at night in the springtime when predators such as raccoons and coyotes are more active. Owners must also stay on top of the general cleanliness of the coop to avoid sickness and disease. While chickens can be a great benefit to the garden because they eat pests like snails and grubs, those who let their chickens roam also contend with droppings and the damage that can be done to their gardens. "Chickens come with little rakes attached to their feet," cautioned the owner of a large flock of 18 birds.

When asked which came first the chicken or the egg, most of those interviewed chuckled and responded with "chicken." Yet more than one sighed and said, "Well, but I just love those eggs..." Leaving one with the strong impression that whether it is the bird or the egg they love best, owning chickens is practical, educational, fulfilling and fun for all who chose to do it.

Marti Tedesco

## Library Friends' Spring Update

All our news is in keeping with springtime: rife with unfolding promise & anticipation. The Tribute to Pat & Bob Brown, held at the Old Schoolhouse, was a "heart-warming" event, reflecting their lifetimes of community spirit. Bill Lane in Gene Chaput's classic buggy (the very year & model of Bill's first wheels) was a Kodak-moment capturing the event's relish & appreciation of 'good ole days'. Minglers swapped Brown stories after Sue Chaput set the mood of the celebration with a droll reading of "Ode to Our Brown" by John Wilson. We 'Brown-community legateses' needed the day to indulge our loving memories.

Grazie to all! especially the Brown family.

The Friends' fundraising is going swimmingly well. Two inspirational gifts to shout about: David & Annette Jorgensen's, made in collaboration with the PVCF, to outfit the new Library with the finest accoutrements; and the Lane's gift, in honor of Pat & Bob Brown. How lucky can one hamlet get?!

Please check our website at: [www.fopvl.org](http://www.fopvl.org) for more current information. If you would like to contact us please email: [friends@fopvl.org](mailto:friends@fopvl.org) or telephone (650) 854 *Lenora Ferro*

## Undergrounding

A thousand years from now, Portola Valley's roads will be free of the wires that hang from utility poles. But, members of the Town's Cable and Undergrounding Committee and many residents want to speed things up a few centuries.

Approximately 90% of respondents to a recent survey of residents favored taking action sooner rather than later. And two-thirds of them would be willing to pay additional taxes now.

A number of Bay Area cities, including Mountain View, Fremont and Sunnyvale, have buried their telephone, electrical and cable wires in sections of town that have just been built or rebuilt, much like The Ranch in Portola Valley. What's less common is for a town to bury all its utility wires within a few decades, a task attempted by Palo Alto and San Diego. Could Portola Valley soon join them?

In 1965, Palo Alto began a program to improve reliability by undergrounding all overhead wires with its first project along Oregon Expressway. Since then, 40 Underground Districts have been formed. San Diego has been undergrounding overhead utility wires since 1970. It is estimated that nearly all residential areas will be completed in the

next 20-25 years.

Portola Valley's General Plan encourages undergrounding and states that a program should be developed for progressively placing existing overhead lines underground. It also establishes the Alpine Road and Portola Road corridors as Undergrounding District #1. Current building permit policy demands undergrounding of wires from the road to the home for all new construction and some remodels.

Though overhead utility wires run counter to the General Plan, exacerbate power outages, endanger citizens through accidents and wildfire and are unsightly, it is costly to remove the poles and place the wires underground. And any increase in property values is only recognized upon sale.

A journey of a thousand miles begins with a single step. What will it be in Portola Valley?

To learn more about the programs in San Diego and Palo Alto, see <http://www.sandiego.gov/undergrounding/>; <http://www.cityofpaloalto.org/cityagenda/publish/uac-meetings/3889.pdf> or <http://www.cityofpaloalto.org/depts/utl/faqs/default.asp#845>

*Ken Lavine*

## Safe to Spray?

Most Portola Valley residents have heard about the Little Brown Apple Moth (LBAM) in the news because of the aerial spraying done to control or eradicate this new invasive species. These actions are the best response to a new invader; early detection and rapid response is the only way to a successful eradication. Most of the news has focused on the reported illness caused by the spray. These illnesses cannot be linked to the spray, but that does not stop the concern.

Ever since the aerial spraying to control the Med Fly, environmentalists and government have worked to develop treatments for invasive species that are less toxic and more species specific than Malathion used on the Med Fly. The answer they have developed is what is being used for the LBAM, a pheromone. Pheromones are chemicals that are used by a species to find mates. The chemical is produced by the female moths to attract males. The chemical is designed to attract only the males of the correct species and not be noticed by other species, such as predators.

So how does one turn a harmless chemical against the moths? It is used to confuse the male moths or draw them to their deaths. In the case of aerial spraying, the ground is covered with pellets that smell like females. The males spend their lives trying to mate with all these pellets, never finding a true female. The attractive power of the pheromone is so strong that only about twenty grams of the chemical per acre are necessary to disrupt the mating of the moths.

Both the Conservation Committee and the Science Committee endorse the actions being taken. You can get more information on the program at <http://www.cdfa.ca.gov/lbam/>

*Paul Heiple  
Conservation Committee Chair*

## The Sequoias

Life at the Sequoias continues to turn greener every week. It's not just spring, with every camellia bush in full bloom, and every blossom different in all conceivable sizes, shapes, colors and patterns. Our individual patios are following the green trend, with tulips and hyacinths, daffodils and pansies, and hydrangea bushes growing fast enough to amaze us all.

During the re-construction of the Gardens with new spaces for walking and sitting comfortably outside, and the final reconfiguration of the Health Care rooms, there are plans for a new LIFE TRAIL near the swimming pool. If you've never seen or heard about these stations—here's a brief description to entice you to take a hike.

Walking is the most common form of outdoor recreation among older adults. Life Trail Wellness stations are installed along existing walking paths to provide a variety of exercise options as you go along the path. Each station has three sides, one, for instance, with grab bars and non-slip treads to facilitate balance and stability.

Each activity panel has clear instructions, and one side is open for remarks and messages. One station provides lower body warm-up with leg pedaling, which is also good for heart rates. There is a bench stepper to increase leg strength and balance. One has a Torso Stability station with two exercises to strengthen the lower back and abs muscles. And there are other options along the trail on each station.

The installation of these health stations will begin soon, even before all the construction materials have been removed. Once again the Sequoias will lead the way with healthy life enhancements, and new reasons to walk and enjoy life more on greener paths. Add a small dog as a walking companion, and what more could we ask for? (A treat, please, for each of us!)

*Trish Hooper*

## Preparing for Sea Level Rise in the Bay Area

This was the title of a well-run conference organized by SFBCDC (San Francisco Bay Area Conservation and Development Commission) and ABAG (Association of Bay Area Governments), and attended by local government people, environmental consultants, and a few other interested folks (like me). Long-term sea-level rise is a difficult problem for a civilization that has built so much at sea-level. <http://flood.firetree.net/?ll=37.4419,-121.9350&z=5&m=1> shows the Bay with the minimum 1-meter sea-level rise expected by 2100. Governments have trouble making even 50-year plans, but people are trying.

Scientists spoke on the science of climate change, projections over the next 100 years, wetlands, levee dynamics, and water supplies. There was substantial relevant information for anyone who lives anywhere in the Bay Area, even those of us who are well above sea level and get our water from Hetch Hetchy, not the Delta.

Mitigation and adaptation of climate change are both important. Mitigation includes lowering carbon footprint, improving energy efficiency, etc., to slow and eventually stop global warming before too much damage is done. However, global warming has enough inertia to continue for many decades, so adaptation to the now-inevitable effects is needed. For shoreline towns, this includes restricting development, perhaps building levees in carefully-chosen places, and thinking hard about the consequences of +1 meter or more rises, since the world doesn't stop in 2100. Everybody needs to think about water-supply strategy, and well-known Peter Gleick of the Pacific Institute gave a good talk on that.

Speakers from San Francisco and Marin County described their efforts in both mitigation and adaptation. Sewage plants are a particular concern around the Bay. Finally, we did group planning exercises for several imaginary towns, whose results illustrated the difficult decisions to be made, and the cooperation necessary among local governments.

*John Mashey  
Ad-Hoc Climate Protection Task Force*

## Sharing Ideas at the Green Design Workshop

The interactive green building workshop was held on Saturday, April 4. The free workshop included presentations about the latest research in lowering a home's footprint and the GreenPoint rating system, which appoints point values to green features.

Three green building projects were presented by PV architects Carter Warr and Clay Baker and by architect Peter Duxbury. Group discussions guided by the speakers and other PV architects followed the presentations. To view a video of the workshop, go to the Town website at portolavalley.net.



*Linda Holland Yates shared her green home building experiences*

*Virginia Bacon photo*

## Town Picnic • Saturday June 7

Mark your calendars for the annual Town Picnic on June 7<sup>th</sup>, 2008 at 11 am at Corte Madera School

- Children's games
- Car display
- Live Music
- Food

Bring your own picnic or purchase one at the event. The annual Town Fun Run from 9–10 am will kick off the picnic with a run/walk/jog from Rossotti's to Corte Madera. See you there!

### Scenes from the Town Picnic 2007



*Live music added to the fun*



*Getting ready for the race*

*Mike Bray photos*



**The Portola Valley Post**  
**765 Portola Road**  
**Portola Valley, CA 94028**

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94025**

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ECRWSS  
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Portola Valley, CA 94028