



# The Portola Valley Post

Spring 2005

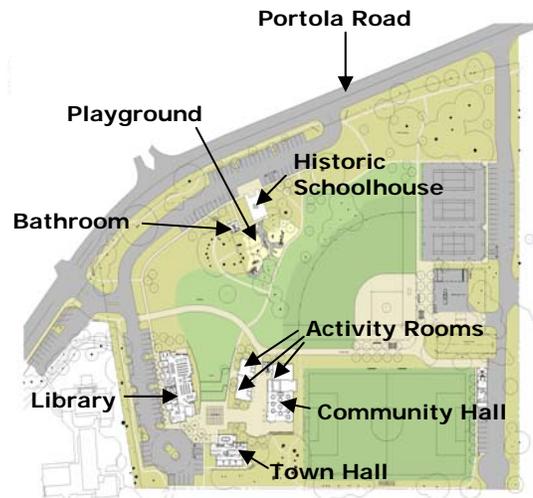
## New Town Center Update

Last November the Portola Valley Town Council endorsed a Conceptual Master Plan for the new Town Center. The Master Plan was the product of twelve community workshops and meetings held last spring and summer, involving more than 180 Town residents.

Since November the design team of Siegel & Strain/Goring & Straja has continued to refine the plan. In this update we will highlight the design changes in the plan since last November and report the latest Town Council thinking on scheduling and funding. **The schematic design will be presented again to the Town Council on June 22.**

### Key Plan Features

- All town functions moved from an active earthquake fault zone onto a portion of the Town Center site that is seismically safer for building
- Less paving and building footprint than what currently exists
- A consolidated “parklands area”, creating a continuous swath of open space along the Portola Road Scenic Corridor and around the site to the new library and Town Hall
- A new play area with a “Tot Playground” and “Youth Playground” encompassing the redwood grove near the Historic Schoolhouse
- Recreational facilities grouped together on the southern portion of the site: soccer field in existing location, new baseball/softball field, and three tennis courts, one of which will also accommodate outdoor basketball, and other uses
- Energy efficient “green design” principles incorporated into the design, such as minimizing impervious surfaces, planting with native vegetation, orienting buildings to take advantage of solar access, and building with salvaged and sustainably produced materials.



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## Life Can Be An Amazing Race at Any Age

As we sit drinking coffee in Ladera, at least four people stop by to tell the St. Claire’s “I was rooting for you!” or “You are my heroes!” Indeed, Don and Mary Jean St. Claire are local heroes. Featured on the television critic’s lauded reality show The Amazing Race in the late summer

“We could do that” turned into  
“Why don’t we do that?”

of 2004, the St. Claires were the oldest participants by at least twenty-five years. They won over the viewer’s hearts and minds through their competitive, gritty and at times humor filled performance.

Both in their mid-to late 60s, Don and Mary Jean found their lives slowly developing into an all too predictable and less adventurous pattern.

Watching The Amazing Race from the comfort of their home, they looked at each other and said, “We could do that”, then said “Why don’t we do that?” and --unlike many people their age or younger-- actually sent in an audition tape! “Our age had everything to do with it,” said Don. “So often you think that you might do something some day – well, we were running out of ‘some days’.” Out of an initial 11,000 applicants, the St. Claires were the first couple to be chosen from the San Francisco auditions.

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Ellie Oates, PV resident and Priory student, with the Priory's Mission Bell

## Portola in Portola Valley?

Did the first European discoverer of the San Francisco Bay, Gaspar De Portola, come through Portola Valley? Father Egon Javor, founder of Woodside Priory School, believes the record shows he very probably did.

Father Egon was so taken with the possibility that in the 1980s, he convinced the school's parents to purchase an official El Camino Real bell, which is now installed by the campus administration building. The small bells are familiar roadside landmarks, marking the trail of missions and related historic sites from San Diego to Sonoma.

Early records show that Sebastian Viscaino, when he made a map of the Pacific coast and gave the names "San Diego, Santa Barbara, and Monterey, looking from the sea," recorded of Monterey that it was "an excellent bay." When Father Junipero Serra and Gaspar de Portola

arrived there by land, what they saw was not so excellent. Portola continued to look for Monterey, going north and passing the tall tree (the "Palo Alto") and later discovering San Francisco Bay, Father Egon explained.

"I think they (Portola's expedition) most likely rested here on Priory property, so I always wanted to have a Mission Bell to remind our students and faculty of the area's history," Father Egon said.

In the mid-1950s, as a young man newly arrived in California and with a school to open in a few months' time, Father Egon had a short vacation to enjoy. He chose to study the history of his new home and travel the El Camino Real trail, starting in San Diego.

*Carolyn Dobevech, Woodside Priory*

## Events at the Sequoias

The Sequoias would like to invite residents of Portola Valley to our entertainment events, which are open to the community. There are some rewarding Music at Four recitals in the afternoon, and the Entertainment Committee, chaired by Onnolee Trapp, produces wonderful productions for us in Hanson Hall on Friday evenings.

In May, the Stanford Chamber Chorale will be performing on the 13<sup>th</sup> and on the 27<sup>th</sup> Jeff Labe will be playing the piano and singing. One of the favorites, Tuesday Nite Live, which is Big Band Night will be on June 6. The West Bay Opera singers will be performing on June 24. The Banjo Band will help us celebrate the fourth of July in the Fountain Court. The Education Committee, chaired by Mary Williams is presenting Ginny Rusinak on June 16, speaking of her life in the Hawaiian Islands 90 years ago—not the Waikiki we know now.

Come join us in Hanson Hall at The Sequoias!

Please call the Sequoia reception office at 851-1501 for upcoming events and more information.

*Trish Hooper*

## Stay Connected

Portola Valley now has two email lists to help keep you informed about community activities. The official Town Center email list will notify you when new information is posted to the town's web site, [www.portolavalley.net](http://www.portolavalley.net), or when the Town Council, Planning Commission or the ASCC posts upcoming meeting agendas or meeting minutes. You can sign up by following the link under 'Communicate with Town Center' on the Town's website home page.

The PVForum is a free non-governmental forum administered through Yahoo! Groups. This forum is open to Portola Valley residents and those in the Portola Valley school district. Since the group was founded in March of last year, the postings have involved events around town, recommendations for music teachers, a discussion on the closure of Little People's Park, and a review of the cellular phone service in town. To subscribe to the PVForum, send an email with your name, email address, Portola Valley home address and telephone number to [PVForum-owner@yahoooogroups.com](mailto:PVForum-owner@yahoooogroups.com)



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## From The Mayor

At a well-attended Town Council meeting on Wednesday, April 20th, our architects presented the Draft Schematic Design of the Town Center Master Plan.

This developing plan describes a Center for our future that respects our Town's values, and is innovative and exciting. When compared to the 50-year old facilities that have served us so well in the past, it will be safer, have more green space, more gathering spaces, more playing field area, less paving, a smaller total building footprint, be an example of native landscaping, and will use "green" building design.

Best of all, it takes advantage of the site's views and beauty. It is a reflection of outstanding efforts not just by our architects but also by so many of you who have contributed ideas and direction, a truly collaborative effort.

It is hard to believe that meetings directed at improving our Town Center began almost 10 years ago; 2 years ago the Ad Hoc Town Center Citizens Advisory Committee endorsed these goals:

- Take advantage of the site, reinforcing access, views, conservation and beauty
- Become a gathering place for the Town Residents of all ages
- Service the civic, emergency, and maintenance needs of the Town
- Create a friendly, approachable and service-oriented environment that encourages interaction and teamwork
- Become an example of the design ideals of the Town
- Become a symbolic extension of the Town residence

I believe that with the proposed design we are on track to fulfilling all of these objectives. The design will continue to be refined; there will be meetings with the ASCC and Planning Commission and a schematic design presentation to the Town Council June 22. We as a community still have a great deal to do, so with thanks, I encourage you all to participate.

Please join us, as we build on the values of the past for the future of our Town.

## When Do I Need a Permit?

It is always a good rule of thumb to contact the town hall before you begin any construction activity, landscaping, irrigation, fencing, exterior lighting, and driveway repairs/replacement. You may be required to obtain a permit prior to starting the work. The following is a brief summary of the common permits that are required.

You need a building permit to erect, construct, enlarge, alter, repair, move, improve, remove, convert or demolish any building and structure, or make any installation, alteration or improvement to the electrical, plumbing or mechanical system.

You need an encroachment permit anytime work is to be conducted in the public right-of-way. The public right-of-way ensures the availability of roads and trails for public use. An encroachment permit is needed for paving driveways, trenching for utilities, installing approved landscaping, etc.

You need a site development permit when excavation, fill or any combination thereof exceeds fifty cubic yards; vegetation is to be removed from any an area of 5,000 square feet; or a significant tree is to be removed.

Certain projects are exempt from issuance of a permit, please contact the town hall staff to ensure that you are working in compliance with town ordinances and guidelines. For more complete information, please contact the Building, Planning and Engineering Department at (650) 851-1700.

*Leslie Lambert*

## Spring Spells Service Learning in the PVSD

It's spring and service learning has blossomed in the Portola Valley School District (PVSD) where a new Character Education program aims to develop the qualities of respect and civic responsibility. The Service Learning component has become an integral part of the program where students at every grade level learn and develop through active participation in organized community service.

So what exactly are these service learning projects? At Ormondale, students are tending a new vegetable garden with the goal of donating food to the homeless. Third graders are furiously recycling, and the first graders have

The program teaches the children to see beyond their own back yards to the greater community

been working with Wildlife Rescue, educating their peers about protecting animals.

At Corte Madera under the guidance of teacher Joan Dame, students partnered with first graders at Adelante Spanish Immersion School in Redwood City. The students communicated in Spanish and wrote and donated Spanish picture books. Ms Dame's project was recently recognized as one of the best examples of service learning in the western states at the National Service Learning Conference.

Carefully planned to mesh with the curriculum, the service learning projects crisscross disciplines and teach the children life skills. For example, the garden projects integrate science, art, math and the art of negotiation. The program will also teach the children to see beyond their own back yards to the greater community. For more information, please check out our website at [pvsd.net](http://pvsd.net), and click on the "Service Learning" tab.

*Kathleen Carr*

## Open Space in the Valley

When Craig Taylor talks about Open Space in Portola Valley, he takes a long-term view. As head of the Portola Valley Open Space Committee (PVOSC), Taylor says he looks out a minimum of 5 to 10 years. Not only is this consistent with the Town's long time commitment to the scenic value of open space; but it is a practical reality of today's real estate market. With the financial support of the community, the PVOSC is able to focus on the long-term acquisition of small, half-acre to 15 acre parcels in and around the town of Portola Valley. Portola Valley currently owns 30 parcels representing 95 acres of open space, which help to secure the rural nature of the Valley's scenic beauty.

As a part of the Portola Valley town government, the PVOSC's focus is to acquire land on a much smaller, more local scale than organizations such as Peninsula Open Space Trust. As such, efforts to raise money are also less elaborate. Even so, Taylor is clearly gratified and somewhat humbled by what he calls the "incredible generosity" of this community. Portola Valley gathers about 70% its funds from a voter approved 2% Utility Users Tax. The remaining 30% comes from The Blues and Bar-B-Que fundraiser, the sale of Herb Dengler wildflower prints and private donations of land, cash and stocks. "This community has consistently proven its commitment to Open Space throughout the years not only by voting to tax themselves, but also by direct donations," said Taylor.

The most recent, significant acquisition was that of a portion of the Springdown Equestrian Center property. Por-



Springdown Equestrian Center Property

tolta Valley purchased this land, and the horse facility is leasing it back under a 5-year contract. Additionally, the Committee has been involved in open space issues related to the Blue Oaks Subdivision, the Portola Valley Ranch and the Hayfields areas, which is next to the Woodside border. While these are high visibility projects, Craig Taylor is quick to note that the the Town does not pursue any eminent domain rights, where governments seize private property for public use. Rather, the Committee focuses purely on land purchases that reinforce the scenic value of the community and uphold the Town's zoning laws where subdivisions are involved.

The PVOSC prides itself on working proactively with the community. While not involved in trails, land management or conservation, the PVOSC does consult with individuals who are interested in learning more about open space preservation in the town. Currently, the Committee is actively involved in discussions with landowners interested in conservation easements. A popular tool of open space advocates, conservation easements allow the Town to own the rights to conserve the open space by not building upon the land, while the landowner retains title and receives significant tax advantages.

Regardless of the type of acquisition, Taylor and his committee work to ensure public access to lands when and

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## Life Can Be An Amazing Race at Any Age

*From Page 1*

With the same type of initiative, the couple trained extensively with Shelley Sweeney, a Portola Valley native and Fitness Director at Alpine Hills Swim and Tennis Club. Whether it was wind sprints, a hike up the Wayside Drive hill with sixty pound backpacks, thousands of step-ups or a ride on the Woodside loop, Shelley's workouts prepared them both for all but the sleep and food deprivation that lay ahead in the competition.

The St. Claires were eliminated in the fifth episode of the show. But both Mary Jane and Don got such a thrill from the race, they were reluctant to come home but had learned a lot from the experience. "Its nice to know that you can still change, can still learn

about yourself" said Mary Jean. "Don and I work together differently as a result of our experiences on the show. We work side by side now. I am more willing to take risks, even if I might be wrong," she said. Together, the husband and wife team feel strongly about using their experience to inspire people to get off the couch. "We would both love to advocate for adventure travel and a full, active life for seniors".

No wonder so many admirers call them their heroes. "As a kid I remember my grandfather planting fruit trees at the age of ninety-six, when he would never live to see them bear fruit" said Don; "age is attitudinal." Even though The Amazing Race is over for the St. Claire's, their journey has just begun.



Mary Jean and Don St. Claire work side by side now

*Marti Tedesco*

*Photo by Marti Tedesco*

## Blues & Barbeque Celebration Set to Return This September

Planning is underway for the seventh annual Blues & Barbeque - a celebration of community in Portola Valley, which does double-duty as a fundraiser for the Town's Open Space Acquisition Fund.

Folks in town and neighboring communities are invited to join in the festivities on Sunday, September 11, when Town Center will be transformed with live music, a petting zoo, pony rides, refreshments, and a barbeque. In an effort to beat the cold of dusk, the event will start an hour earlier this year at 2:30 p.m., with meals served from 4:30 p.m.

A live auction will begin at 5 p.m., when Peninsula Open Space Trust President Audrey Rust will once again take the reins as auctioneer. A sample of items on offer include a golf outing in Monterey, a sailing trip out on the bay, a wine tour of Portola Valley, and a private dinner party for eight up at the Thomas Fogarty Winery.

A highlight of this year's celebration will be the honoring of Bill and Jean Lane for their commitment to the town, open space and conservation issues.

"The Lanes have been such wonderful benefactors in so many areas of this town and beyond," says town historian Nancy Lund. "The time is right to focus on how they've contributed to Portola Valley open space."

The Lanes have been such wonderful benefactors in so many areas of this town and beyond

Audrey Rust adds, "Bill and Jean Lane, supporters of the Peninsula Open Space Trust from the beginning, have demonstrated a remarkable commitment to conservation. Their knowledge, experience and influence in the world has helped us at home. Their support of open space land

acquisitions in Portola Valley and on the Peninsula will insure that many unique landscapes are protected for future generations."

Sharon Driscoll

## Post Introduction

After publishing a few issues of the Portola Valley Post, we wanted to introduce you to the editorial staff. The staff includes Julia Dillingham as editor, Karen Vahtra as associate editor and photographer, and Marti Tedesco as a contributing writer.

Julia is a consultant with a marketing and communications background who thought it would be fun to produce a local newsletter. Karen retired from high tech and is a photographer. Marti is a retired high tech marketeer who enjoys writing as a hobby and also serves as the editor of the monthly *Ladera Crier*.

resource for the community and hope that you enjoy reading it as much as we like producing it. If you have suggestions for articles,



Karen Vahtra, Julia Dillingham and Marti Tedesco

comments about the current issue, or would like to become a staff member, we want to hear from you! We are currently looking for someone to serve as a liaison to the regular contributors. The position acts as a focal point between

Our appreciation of Portola Valley and our interests are the reasons we volunteered to produce the Post

the newsletter staff and the many volunteer committees and other contributors to the newsletter.

Please contact Julia at [julia8925@sbcglobal.net](mailto:julia8925@sbcglobal.net).

We publish *The Post* twice a year as a

## Portola Parents - The PV Parenting Network

There's no doubt that Portola Valley is a great place to raise kids. We have wonderful schools, the library, sports and art classes, trails for hiking and biking, and wild animals in the backyard.

While most of us would far rather live here than in the city, we lack one benefit of urban life: the constant bumping-into of neighbors. Many of us can't see our neighbors from our houses, and most of our coming and going is done in cars. Unbeknownst to you, a family may live just three doors down, or on the next street, with kids the same age as yours.

That's why Portola Parents was created. It's a network for parents from all neighborhoods of Portola Valley, includ-

ing Ladera, to find and talk to each other. We have weekly and monthly all-ages get-togethers, and parents are currently setting up age-based playgroups. Future possibilities include a running/hiking group, nanny shares, and group outings to local kids' places—and new ideas are always welcomed. It's also a great way to keep up-to-date on town issues that affect parents and children, and to simply meet the neighbors and make new friends.

Please join us, and bring your ideas about how to make parenting in Portola Valley easier, better, and more fun. Email [Erica@portolaparents.org](mailto:Erica@portolaparents.org) to join.

Erica Hughes

## New Town Center Update

From Page 1

### Plan Updates Since November

The following are updates that have been made to the November 2004 Master Plan, as the design team has further refined the plan following meetings with Town committees, the Town Council, the Planning Commission, the Architecture and Site Control Committee, and Town residents.

- New site entrance from the north. Through a cooperative agreement with Christ Church, there will be a new entryway to the main building complex through the small parking lot at the north end of the existing baseball field.
- All building orientations adjusted to highlight views to the west and the central community Town Plaza.
- Current decision is not to open up ("daylight") Sausal Creek at this time.
- Building height limitation of 24 feet for all structures.
- The existing soccer field will be slightly shortened and widened to meet regulation size.
- There will be a continuous trail around the site and trails and paths within the site.

### Funding

If the entire master plan is built out, the current estimated cost is approximately \$15 million. The Town currently has sufficient funds - \$ 4 million - to launch construction of Phase I of the project: a new library, Town administration building and maintenance facilities. A fundraising effort is about to get underway to help finance the project. This effort will include a number of giving options for donors.

### Proposed Phasing & Schedule

Below are the anticipated building phases.

**Phase I** – Build new library, Town administration building, maintenance facilities, infrastructure, utilities, trails and landscaping. The Town aims to break ground on the project by the summer of 2006 and would like to have the ribbon-cutting for these new facilities at the Blues 'n BBQ in September 2007.

**Phase II** – New childrens' playground, construction/upgrading of soccer and baseball fields, and tennis/sports courts.

**Phase III** – New Community Hall and activity rooms. The timing of Phases II and III will depend on availability of funding, and could, in fact, be one phase.

### Staying Involved

Over the next several months there will continue to be numerous opportunities for residents to provide input on programming and design issues for the new Town Center. **A schematic design will be presented to Town Council on June 22<sup>nd</sup>.** You will be notified of other key meetings and opportunities for input as well. If you are not already on the project email list, please call Sharon Hanlon at Town Administration at 851-1700 or go to the Town website at [www.portolavalley.net](http://www.portolavalley.net) and send an email stating you would like to be included on the project mailing list. The Town website also includes detailed history and information about the Town Center project.

Linda Weil

## Little People's Park-New Playground Equipment on the Way

New playground equipment is coming to Little People's Park. With help from a volunteer committee of young parents, the Town has selected equipment that should be in place by June 15. The new gear features slides, a driver's deck, a bridge, and lots of ways to climb, crawl, hang, spin, and scramble. A separate toddler swing set will also be installed. The Town's equipment will be painted green and brown to blend in with the natural setting of Little People's Park.

The location of the new equipment will be on the site of the existing play structure. Earlier this year, a state certified inspector hired by the Town's liability insurance carrier found that virtually all of the old equipment in Little People's Park no longer meets safety standards of the California Health and Safety Code. As a result, the Town was forced to order dismantling of

the old equipment. The original removal date was to be April 29. However, concerns expressed by young families about the lack of equipment during the prime play time of spring and early summer led the Town to delay removal until the new equipment arrives. Under the new timeline, only brief closure of Little People's Park will be necessary in late May or early June during the dismantling of the old equipment and installation of the new structure.

The arrival of new play equipment brings an opportunity for community involvement in the refurbishment of Little People's Park. The Town plans to organize a community day on the weekend following installation of the new equipment when families can participate in spreading the new insulating fall material and otherwise help spruce up the playground.

Although Little People's Park is located quite close to the construction site of the



new Portola Valley Library and Town Hall (where the tennis courts are now), the Town presently plans for the playground to remain open during construction, which is projected to start in the summer of 2006. Phase II of the project, which will begin when funds can be secured, calls for the development of a large state-of-the-art playground located behind the Historic Schoolhouse (see map on page 1). Many Town residents have already contributed money to the permanent playground, but substantial funds remain to be raised and donations are welcome.

## Opportunities for Early Learning

Portola Valley is fortunate to have three quality preschools. Windmill Preschool located on Alpine Road and Ladera Preschool, located at the Ladera Community Church, have offered wonderful half-day programs for many years. In response to the needs of a growing community, Carillon Preschool opened its doors in August of 2004 at Christ Church on Portola Road. Carillon Preschool's motto, "Where joy and learning go hand-in-hand," is seen in its creative learning environment and age-appropriate curriculum.

Ladera Community Church Preschool has been in operation since 1966 offering part-time classes that encourage social and emotional growth. The curriculum is designed to help children enjoy, appreciate and understand their total environment, providing a solid foundation for later school learning. Classes for toddlers to 5-year-olds are offered

from September to June, with a 5-week morning Summer School Program.

Windmill Preschool offers a program where whole child learning takes place, which supports social, emotional, cognitive and physical development. Messy and wet experiences are encouraged!

This Spring Carillon Preschool is sponsoring a concert for families with children 8 and under. *Sandi & Stevie*, Songwriters and Children's Performers, will perform at Christ Church on Sunday, May 15, at 3:30 p.m. Tickets are available through the school.

For more information about preschool, summer programs and special events, please contact each school. Carillon Preschool 529-1335; Ladera Community Church Preschool 854-0295; Windmill Preschool 851-0771.

## Moving the Town Center off the Fault Line

A new Town Center is proposed to be built near, but not on, the San Andreas fault where scientists predict a major earthquake is certain to occur. We know where but not when.

Earthquakes originating from motion along faults can damage buildings in several ways: shaking due to seismic waves; shear if the fault is under a structure; landslides on steep slopes; distortion from liquefaction if the structure is underlain by water-saturated unconsolidated sediments; or demolition from the impact of water in a tsunami. Geologic studies have shown no evidence of liquefaction at the proposed site and the coastal areas of the Town have not witnessed a tsunami in a long time.

For the Town Center site, we therefore need to focus on shear and shaking. Shear damage means cross-wise breaking or cutting through a structure just as if a giant saw were to cut through the structure. A structure sitting astride an earthquake fault is attached to the ground below through its foundation, walls, floors and their sub-structure. The building tends to do what the earth below does. In a major quake when --not if-- the ground surface ruptures, so too, will the building. Contrary to some rumors, no man-made structure or plants will hold the earth together. However, it is possible to design and construct a building to withstand, to some extent, underlying shear, but this can only be done from scratch and such structures are exceedingly expensive to build.

In a seismically active area such as Portola Valley the greatest threat to structures not located directly over a fault is the shaking that accompanies large earthquakes. Major earthquakes generate damaging seismic waves that affect structures at distances up to 100 miles or more. To understand the effects of say, a magnitude 7 earthquake it may be

A few feet can be better than 10 miles for  
reducing earthquake damage

helpful to consider such a quake to be many magnitude 5 earthquakes all occurring simultaneously along 20, 30, maybe 100 miles of the fault. The actual proximity to the fault is not the crucial factor. The most significant impact of shaking is liquefaction. When earthquakes shake loose, wet, sandy soil, the soil resembles quicksand and can lose the ability to support structures.

As a consequence of such factors, houses in Palo Alto are likely to experience more damage than those in Portola Valley, even though they are further away from the fault (due to the underlying alluvium and other conditions).

By placing the Town Center buildings at their new location they should not experience underlying shear damage. And these buildings will be designed to minimize shaking damage. *Caveat temblor!*

*Sheldon Breiner, Geologic Safety Committee*

## Open Space in the Valley

*From Page 4*

where appropriate. The PVOSC stops short however, when open space acquisition or conservation issues extend beyond the Town boundaries. These larger and usually highly charged issues are left to other local groups to negotiate, although the Portola Valley Town Council may get involved if it seems the issue may adversely impact the Town.

It's hard to imagine what life in Portola Valley will be like 5 or 10 years down the road. But rest assured, the PVOSC is working now to preserve the beauty and open space we all enjoy today. If you are interested in learning more about how you can support this cause, how to make a land donation or learning more about tax-saving approaches to land donation, please contact Craig Taylor at [ctaylor@2ct.com](mailto:ctaylor@2ct.com).

*Marti Tedesco*

## Enjoy Our Trails

Spring is here and it is time to enjoy our town's 36 miles of trails! Casual strollers, dog walkers, runners, equestrians, and cyclists all have trails available in town. But please note that different trails have different permitted usages.

Dogs on leash are permitted throughout the Portola Valley trail system except on Coal Mine Ridge. Coal Mine Ridge in the Portola Valley Ranch is a nature preserve located roughly in the area south of Corte Madera School and east of Alpine Road. The trails on Coal Mine Ridge that do not allow dogs are Toyon, Arroyo, Old Spanish, Bay Laurel and Coal Mine. Remember to walk your dog on a leash at all times. The leash law is a San Mateo county ordinance and violators are subject to fines.

Equestrians may enjoy all of the trails



Teddy, Paddy and Jon Silver enjoying some of the 36 miles of trails in town.

except for Coal Mine Ridge's Toyon Trail, which follows Alpine Road on the ridge above the road. Toyon trail is unfortunately too narrow and hazardous for horses. Equestrians have the right of way on all trails, as horses may be easily spooked.

Bicycle usage is more restrictive so please note the trailhead usage signs. Many of the roadside trails around our schools are open to bicycles in order to encourage school children to ride their bikes to school and to other central places in town.

The Trails and Paths Committee encourages all of our citizens to use the trail system responsibly and to be courteous to other users. Please obey the usage signs and keep your dog on leash when walking on the trails.

*Trails and Paths Committee*

## Ready, set, go! It's time for the annual Town Picnic

Sometimes it does take a village – especially when it comes to planning Portola Valley's annual Town Picnic and Zots to Tots run. This year's event will be the result of a wide range of volunteers coming together from the town's Community Events Committee, Cub Scouts, Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, Brownies, Teen Committee, Parks & Recreation Committee, local schools – and beyond.

The picnic festivities will be held on Saturday, June 11 at the Town Center, 765 Portola Road, with activities there from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.

The day begins with the annual Zots to Tots run at 10 a.m.; race registration is at 9:30 a.m. at the Alpine Inn. Young and old are invited to walk, run, cycle and scooter over to

Town Center. All participants will receive a Town Picnic t-shirt for their efforts.

Are you itching to get that 1950's Corvette convertible out of the garage? Reserve your spot in this year's new "collector's car show," that will start at 11 a.m. in front of the Historic School House.

Activities at Town Center will include a live band, musical story time led by the town's librarians, carnival games, a dunking tank, giant slide, and more. Beverages, lunch, snacks, and of course – cotton candy, will be on sale throughout the day.

For more information please contact the event chair, Liz Sweeney at 851-4553.



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