



Dear Sunset Beach Residents - We are excited to bring you the latest updates and announcements from the Sunset Beach Improvement Association (SBIA). Here's what's been happening in our community:

Save the date – Holiday Potluck Luncheon – 1 PM Saturday, December 14, 2024

Mark your calendars for Saturday, December 14th - Join us for a holiday celebration at the home of Abe and Zohreh Novin at 36 Sunset Drive. Weather permitting, we'll hold the celebration outside on their patio.

Come celebrate the spirit of the season with your neighbors. Please bring an appetizer, side dish, or dessert to share.



General Meeting Recap

For those of you who were unable to attend the SBIA General Meeting on Sept 1st, 2024, here are the highlights.

- Spring 2025 Clean-up will only have Green DUMPSTERS again. For information on GreenWaste Special Pickups for Bulky Items see update on following page in this newsletter.
- There was a lively discussion about ways to slow the speed of cars in our neighborhood. Speed humps were vociferously opposed by some and abandoned as an option. Crosswalks or other ideas were tossed around and will be investigated for the future.
- After much discussion it was voted to REPAIR THE STAIRS to the beach in sections rather than replace all at once. The stair committee will follow up with priorities and the possibility of finding contractors willing to do the repair in sections.
- It was voted to increase SBIA DUES from \$300 to \$350 beginning this year with the additional proceeds to go towards the Stair Capital Fund in anticipation of a large expense and the hope to minimize any future special assessment.
- A hearty thank you was shared for all the neighborhood members who volunteer their time and talents to support keeping our Sunset Beach beautiful!
- 2024/2025 SBIA BOARD MEMBERS are Betty Stone, Karl Simmons, Angelynn Dang Bostrom, Suzie Yost, Chris Vanni, Chris Frazier, and Suzi (Kyriakides) Lara.

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GreenWaste will pick up your bulky items!

At the last SBIA meeting there was a discussion about ways to dispose of large/bulky items. I wanted to let the community know that **GreenWaste** would love to come get your items for FREE!

GreenWaste allows homeowners 9 bulky items within 3 special pickups per year! These items must be no larger than 6 ft x 6 ft and no heavier than 200 lbs. each. Homeowners can call and schedule a pickup date and time or request a special service on the **GreenWaste** website ([Santa Cruz County - GreenWaste](#)).

Here's the process to follow: When you go to the Green Waste website (link above) at the very top right of the page is a small "contact us" spot. Click on that. Then click on "service request," and complete the form. The form asks for an account number (Green Waste uses a "customer ID" on their bill). You'll receive an email back from Green Waste saying to put the bulky items out next to the garbage cans the following Monday and they will be picked up.

Each collection may include 3 appliances or bulky items (i.e. furniture), 5 electronic waste items and 2 cubic yards of reusable materials (i.e. cloth). In addition to these special pickups, some batteries such as AA, AAA, C, D, 6 Volt, 9 Volt and lithium can be placed in a clear Ziplock type plastic bag and placed on your blue can during regular recycle pickup, but they ask that you call ahead so they can advise the recycle pickup driver. Other batteries (i.e. hearing aid, coin, or tool batteries) are considered hazardous waste. Paint and oil are also hazardous waste. These items should be taken to the Hazardous Waste area at Buena Vista Landfill (Current hours are 7:30 to 3:30 Wednesday, Friday, and Saturday). For more information or questions, contact **GreenWaste** of Santa Cruz County at 831-426-2711.



Dog Poop Etiquette



Dog Poop Bags are available in dispensers but, I hate to say it, we are picking up other owner's dog poop at least once a day. (All different size so not one dog 😊.) Please remember to bring your own bags or use those we provide at several locations around the neighborhood.

Please remind family and friends and include in renter agreements and information whether full time or short-term renters.

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Invasive Plants (and animals)

A couple of invasive plants are in our neighborhood, and you probably want to be aware of them.

Poison Hemlock can cause some people to break out in a rash - it is recommended to wear long pants and sleeves and gloves if working in areas with this weed. If walking your dog, be aware all parts of the plant are poisonous if they ingest it (i.e. licking paws).

Cape Ivy (AKA German Ivy) will cover shrubs and trees inhibiting growth and even killing them. Manual removal of plants including roots and rhizomes before viable seed develops can help control infestations.

Note: **GreenWaste** does not allow these two plants in your green can. It should be bagged up and put in your gray household waste can. This will prevent **GreenWaste** putting them in the green waste mulch where it will be put in someone's garden only to spread their invasion.

Speaking of invasive, the ground squirrels are having a great time trying to undermine the roadway, fire hydrants, driveways, and our garden plants. Some residents are using traps to get rid of them. Please don't put out poison as that will poison our hawks and owls and other wildlife that may eat the carcass and ingest the poison. Many residents have stopped putting out birdseed since the squirrels are attracted to the seeds that fall to the ground -even if you have squirrel-proof feeders. Caution or elimination in providing food to any wildlife is recommended to eliminate attraction of the squirrels.



Poison Hemlock



Cape Ivy



Farewell to Kerry Swanson

Our neighbor Kerry Swanson passed away quietly as he had lived the last few years. Born in Watsonville Community Hospital on Dec 1, 1955, Kerry grew up in Los Altos and obtained a degree in Journalism from Sacramento State in 1978. After some years working in journalism, Kerry began a career in Public Relations – a career he maintained until retiring in the early 2000's to be a caretaker for his father. In 2013, Kerry bought the house at 74 Sunset Drive. He spent hours on his deck, enjoying his view of the ocean and Santa Cruz. He was an avid reader and spent his time reading literary and historical classics. His interests included history and psychology among other subjects. He was proud of his house. Kerry Swanson died peacefully at his home on September 10th.



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Welcome to New Neighbors – Ben & Suzy Ewell

Welcome Ben and Suzy Ewell!

Suzy & Ben Ewell live in Fresno and enjoy their getaway home at 59 Sunset Dr.

Ben and Suzy have a family of 5 boys. Suzy takes care of the home front, while Ben is a water rights attorney, land developer, and author. Ben grew up with his brothers and sister in Ohio before embarking on a cross-country journey to California to earn his law degree and begin his career, eventually becoming a successful attorney in Fresno and serving as Ronald Reagan's campaign chair for the Central Valley. He was later appointed to the U.S. Small Business Administration in Washington, D.C.

Ben and Suzy both enjoy going to their ranch in the Sierra Foothills and the Sunset Beach area where they especially enjoy the friendly neighbors.



Ben and Suzy

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Welcome to New Neighbor – Cheryl Henry

Welcome Cheryl Henry!

Earlier this year, Cheryl purchased 17 Mesa and lives there full time with her beautiful dog Zia. You will no doubt have seen Cheryl and Zia walking our neighborhood roads, headed off on an adventure side-by-side. Zia is a chocolate brown, shaggy 14-year-old shelter dog with an undeniable friendly and inquisitive spirit. After a childhood spent in Minnesota, Cheryl moved here from Utah, where she'd lived for 25 years, and where she and her late husband Jon raised their family – daughter Jo and son Jonson. Both of Cheryl's children have come to call this area home – Jo with her husband Seth and daughter River, and Jonson with his girlfriend Heidi Dawson (a Santa Cruz native), all living in Aptos. Jo and Seth are starting the process of building a new home in Aptos, and Jonson, after a 10-year Navy career, has been working with the coffee chain Cat & Cloud.

Cheryl is teaching English to 10th and 11th grade students at Watsonville High School, and, after moving into her new house in July and August, jumped right into her second school year. Cheryl previously taught English to Grades 6-9 in Park City, Utah, and is enjoying the challenges in the new school system. Among other interests, Cheryl is an active reader and devotes much time to previewing material for her new groups of students.

Active in both winter and summer while in Utah, Cheryl grew to love many outdoor activities including hiking in summer and snowshoeing in winter. Now that she's here, Cheryl and Zia have explored many of our local trails together – not just our beach and trails in Sunset Beach Park, but also Nisene Marks and other local attractions.

Cheryl is enjoying Sunset Beach and her new home and garden. If you happen to see them out for a walk, headed for parts unknown, please take a moment to say hello – you'll be glad you did. Welcome Cheryl and Zia!

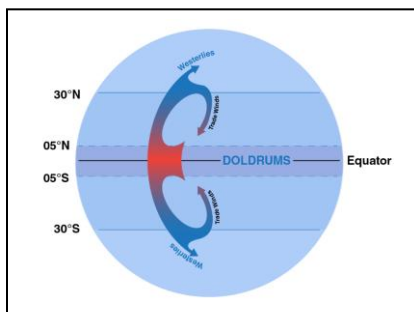
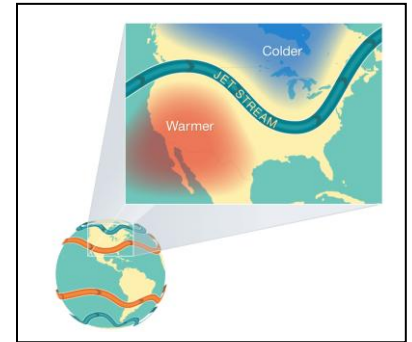


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Everything you always wanted to know about the Jet Stream, Trade Winds, El Niño, La Niña and our very own Monterey Bay*

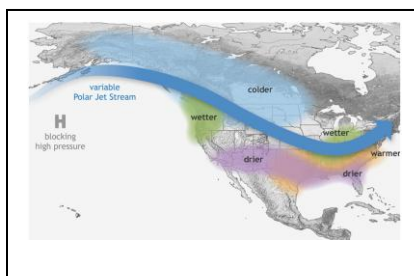
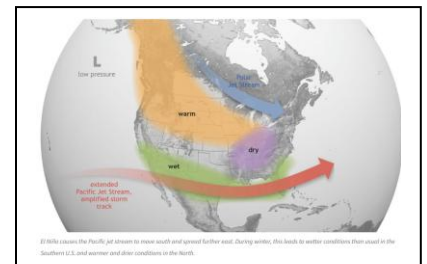
The Earth has 4 primary jet streams – narrow bands of strong winds in the troposphere (5-9 miles above the earth’s surface) - all of which flow west to east. There are two polar jet streams, near the north and south poles, and two subtropical jet streams closer to the equator. Jet streams form when Earth’s warmer air masses meet cooler air masses. As the warmer air rises higher in the atmosphere and cooler air sinks down to replace the warm air, the movement creates a jet stream. Earth’s jet streams move at about 110 miles per hour in the summer; in winter, much faster. The last time you flew to Chicago, you benefited from one of these, as it pushed your plane along its path. When you flew home, the reverse was true, and you paid the price.



Jet streams also interact closely with our “trade winds”, which are air currents closer to Earth’s surface that blow from east to west (opposite to a jet stream). Trade winds flow within a band 30 degrees North and South of the equator and have been used by sailors for centuries. Sailors traveling from Europe or Africa used the trade winds to travel to North or South America. Trade winds blow toward the west partly because of how Earth rotates on its axis. The trade winds begin as warm, moist air from the equator rises in the atmosphere and cooler air closer to the poles sinks. Because Earth rotates as the air is moving, the winds in the Northern

Hemisphere curve to the right and air in the Southern Hemisphere curves to the left.

During normal conditions in the Pacific Ocean, trade winds blow west along the equator, taking warm water from South America towards Asia. To replace that warm water, cold water rises from the depths — a process called upwelling. In an El Niño cycle, trade winds weaken. Warm water is pushed back east, toward the west coast of the Americas. The warmer waters cause the Pacific jet stream to move south of its neutral position. With this shift, areas in the northern U.S. and Canada are dryer and warmer than usual. But in the U.S. Gulf Coast and Southeast, these periods are wetter than usual and have increased flooding. Also, during El Niño, upwelling weakens or stops altogether. Without the nutrients from the deep, there are fewer phytoplankton off the US West coast, including in our Monterey Bay.

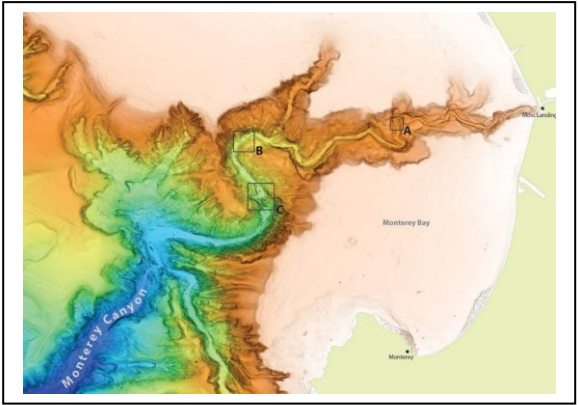


In a La Niña cycle (forecast for this winter, although weak) trade winds are even stronger than usual, pushing more warm water toward Asia. Off the west coast of the Americas, upwelling increases, bringing cold, nutrient-rich water to the surface. These cold waters in the Pacific push the jet stream northward. This tends to lead to drought in the southern U.S. and heavy rains and flooding in the Pacific Northwest and Canada. During a La Niña year, winter temperatures are warmer than normal in the South and cooler than normal in the North.

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Monterey Bay (and Canyon) – The Monterey Canyon is one of the deepest submarine canyons on the west coast of the United States. It begins off the coast of Moss Landing, in the center of Monterey Bay. It is 250 miles long, although its shape changes regularly because of currents and sediment being left in the area. The Monterey Canyon is very similar in scale and shape to the Grand Canyon, but the process that has carved it out over time is remarkably different. The Colorado River cut the Grand Canyon by scouring the rocks as the surrounding plateau uplifted, widening and deepening the canyon’s axis over millions of years. A river of water does not flow through Monterey Canyon. Instead, sediment, including coarse sand and gravel from Santa Cruz and Monterey beaches, is carried along the coast by waves and piles up at the canyon head near Moss Landing. Most of the time, the sediments sit relatively undisturbed in the canyon. Different triggers, including storm waves, vibrations from fault activity, and random failures in the canyon walls can cause the built-up sediment to slump. As the sediment is destabilized, it becomes a fast-moving slurry of seawater and sand—similar to an underwater avalanche—called a turbidity current. Over millions of years, the flowing sand grains carve through even the hardest granite bedrock at the bottom of the canyon.



During a La Niña cycle, waters off the Pacific coast, including in the Monterey Bay, are colder and contain more nutrients than usual. This environment supports more marine life and attracts more cold-water species, like squid and salmon, to places like the California coast.

** But were afraid to ask*

Photos from Neighborhood Events

We hope you enjoy these photos from neighborhood events throughout the year.



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