



Hello, Sunset Beach friends and neighbors!



The neighborhood has done it again. We wrapped up another unforgettable Fourth of July with a celebration worthy of both our nation's 250th birthday and Sunset Beach's own centennial. It was truly a birthday party for the ages.

Shortly after 5:00 p.m. on a beautiful Saturday afternoon, our traditional tuba, trombone, and horn trio launched the festivities with a rousing medley of patriotic favorites. *The Stars and Stripes Forever* and *You're a Grand Old Flag* had everyone smiling and tapping their feet. During a brief pause in the *oom-pah*, Sam Singer, our newly svelte co-Sultan of Ceremonies, proudly introduced this year's Parade Grand Marshals, Leon and JoAnn Mattingley. Leon stood beside his beloved 1965 Mustang while the announcement was made, beaming as neighbors applauded. JoAnn accepted congratulations with equal grace from the front passenger seat, waving regally to friends and admirers gathered along the route.



Never one to let anyone else steal the spotlight, Betty Stone, resplendent in what can only be described as her signature blend of Captain Marvel and Elton John, worked the crowd with her daughter Jessica, handing out red, white, and blue streamers before confidently stepping to the microphone. After introducing herself as the **Field** Marshal of the annual Spring Clean-Up



Day and casting an unmistakably superior glance toward the two *Grand* Marshals, Betty launched into a heartfelt tribute to Harry Hooper and the role he played in the founding of Sunset Beach exactly one hundred years ago.

SBIA Board members:

Betty Stone, Angelynn Dang Bostrom, Suzie Yost, Chris Vanni, Mark Shelley, Suzi Kyriakides, Darby Holden



There wasn't a dry eye in the crowd! Betty's remarks carried many longtime residents back through decades of cherished memories, to the sandlots of their youth and to the years when Harry Hooper himself was making headlines in the major leagues. Even Rod Harris, the neighborhood's perennial champion of the Statue of Liberty look-alike competition, sporting his trademark red, white, and blue wig acquired at a recent cosplay convention, was spotted discreetly wiping away a tear before it had the chance to spoil his patriotic makeup.

Then the parade began, and what a parade it was!



Following the musical trio, who marched front and center, and then our Grand Marshals immediately behind, there proceeded, in what appeared to be a very carefully negotiated order, Kevin Kowalkowski and Uncle Kenny in Kevin's cherry-red Ferrari, Robert Pizante in his robin's-egg-



blue MG, and the Bell/Kornder family in their classic Chevy truck. There is clearly a pecking order here. We have no idea what determines it. Horsepower? Appraised value? Number of cylinders? Seniority? Whatever the formula, one thing is certain: don't even think about nudging your way ahead of the Ferrari unless you fancy leaving the parade with tread marks on your backside.



One of these years, perhaps even next year, Don Stone will arrive in his soon-to-be-completed vintage Studebaker truck. Where it will slot into the procession remains one of Sunset Beach's great unanswered questions.

Once the lead vehicles had rolled past, the parade settled into its familiar collection of neighborhood characters, bikes, skateboards and wagons. Karl Simmons was near the front, gently encouraging his somewhat reluctant hound Kona while delivering a first-rate rendition of the July 4 Rhinestone Cowboy. This correspondent could swear faint strains of the old Glen Campbell classic drifted through the air between blasts from the tuba. Meanwhile, Bella was unwilling to get her red shoes dirty, so Zohreh carried her around the neighborhood in splendid fashion!





Mark and Lori Elliott, fortunately in town for the festivities, marched with Tucker proudly leading the way in his patriotic red, white, and blue kerchief. Jim and JoAnn Shurter, dressed in beautifully coordinated holiday colors, were joined by their daughter Sally, visiting from out of town. Karen King greeted everyone from the deck at 65 Sunset,



Jim proudly displayed his prized July 4 themed BBQ and Jeremy Montes provided an extra layer of security. Michael and Elizabeth Burgess and their wonderful family of four ever-growing children brought enough enthusiasm to power the entire parade, while Karen Fahrenbach and daughter Heather proved that the Shurters weren't the only ones capable of coordinated Fourth of July fashion. Candee Lucas completed the picture with Chopper riding happily in the wagon while the grandchildren Lexi and Braden followed close behind, ensuring the patriotic spirit remained at full throttle.



We were also delighted to see Shawna Kemp, who moved a few months back but came back to see us and Alex Friedman with his son Liav whom we've seen growing up from a wee lad to bikes to school.

After circling the neighborhood twice, giving the walkers a few bonus steps for the day, the procession made its way to the patio in front of Sam and Kren's second home at Sunset Beach.



The scene looked as though it had been borrowed from *The Great Gatsby*. Thanks to Kren, who somehow managed to transport what appeared to be half a furniture showroom over the hazards of Highway 17, the patio had been transformed into the perfect party setting. There were flags everywhere. Bunting adorned nearly every available railing. The entire neighborhood seemed dressed for the occasion.

Then there was the food!



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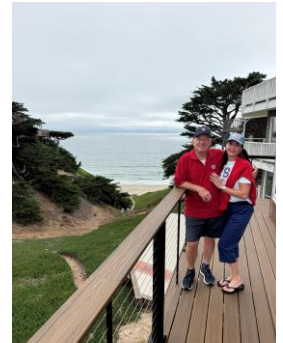
Betty Stone, Angelynn Dang Bostrom, Suzie Yost, Chris Vanni, Mark Shelley, Suzi Kyriakides, Darby Holden



Jim King, barbecue master extraordinaire, served up his trademark grilled kielbasa, several trays of which disappeared in what seemed like ten minutes. The dessert table drew a steady crowd, especially among the younger set. This correspondent also heard whispers, almost too faint to believe, of a legendary tri-tip prepared by Sam,

our Swami of Slim.

Sadly, by the time I reached the buffet, only the memory remained. The tray contained little more than a few streaks of sauce and the lingering aroma of greatness. As I walked dejectedly back to where I'd been standing, I watched Tucker rise onto his hind legs and expertly collect the final evidence before Mark could shorten the leash.



As always, the greatest part of the afternoon was simply watching neighbors enjoy one another's company. Richard Coad and Deb Wuliger were seen vigorously debating the relative merits of their prized furry family members with Dennis and Angelynn Bostrom, arguing over whether Orla or Tiana had the higher doggy IQ. Over on one side was Darby Holden, holding forth on the finer points of farrier science. It's always a pleasure to have Jim Stabile and Katherine Hughes in the crowd, and it was a delight to see George and Shelley Schneider graciously accepting congratulations on their beautiful new viewing deck. Robert Pizante and Lynn Pielow



delighted everyone with photos of their newest furry family member - soon to be joining us here at Sunset Beach. Stay tuned for the official introduction! Never far from the center of things was Abe Novin, accepting congratulations both for his handsome new camo-green truck and for another impressive display from his ever-expanding collection of fine gentleman's jackets.



Finally, friends, our deepest gratitude is owed to Sam and Kren, whose generosity once again made this wonderful celebration possible. We are incredibly fortunate that they have made Sunset Beach such an important part of their lives and continue to bring this neighborhood together year after year. Their hospitality has become one of our most treasured traditions, and we are grateful to call them not only neighbors, but friends.

Thank you, Sam and Kren, for another unforgettable Fourth of July!!

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