

A view from the beach....

Hi All – We survived the Avila Fire with no loss of life or structures due to the extraordinary skill and dedication of our firefighters; our local businesses were just beginning to open; and the beach was as beautiful as always. Then the COVID-19 pandemic reared its ugly head again and people were getting sick and dying at an increasing rate throughout California and most areas of the country. After being on the State’s watch list for the third consecutive day, many of our local businesses including indoor dining at restaurants, closure of bars and wineries and anything that cannot be done outside, and beauty shops and nail salons, to name a few, closed again on July 16, before the Avila Beach Community Center was even allowed to open. These are things that we all know...and, hopefully, will be able to see reopen or open shortly.

In order to bring a little smile to all of you during this challenging time, here are a few pictures of our Golf Cart 4th of July Parade that socially distanced through the San Luis Bay Estates, down the Bob Jones Trail, and stopped at Mulligan’s for a little food and drink. We all had a great time but, knowing me and my love of our furry friends, I know you are not surprised that I really missed hosting our annual 4th of July Doggie Parade. Since I posted pictures of past Doggie Parades last month, I thought that you would enjoy seeing your neighbors celebrating the holiday with patriotic attire and decorations. Hope yours was as enjoyable as ours and you are staying well!

PLEASE POST SOME OF THE ATTACHED 4TH OF JULY PICTURES...AS MANY AS YOU HAVE SPACE TO POST. THANKS.

Central Coast Aquarium – There are some changes going on at the Central Coast Aquarium in the near future. After three months of a temporary shut down due to the COVID-19 pandemic, they are starting the process of reopening the Aquarium. They are looking forward to once again serving the community and continuing their mission which is dedicated to ocean stewardship, marine education, and community engagement. Part of their reopening plan includes repopulating their tanks with local marine life and developing new ways to provide modified marine science education programs that adhere to public health guidelines. For additional information or to volunteer, contact them directly by email at info@centralcoastaquarium.com or by mail to Central Coast Aquarium, PO Box 460, Avila Beach, CA 93424. Also, welcome Debbie Collins as their Interim Executive Director.

Envision Avila – The County of San Luis Obispo will be hosting an Envision Avila virtual workshop on Saturday, July 25, at 11 a.m. The virtual workshop will provide Avila residents and community members an update on the Avila Community Plan, present potential land use changes based on prior community feedback, and allow opportunities to comment on the future of land use, coastal resources, and tourism in Avila. The information to attend this Zoom event will be sent to past participants and those who have expressed an interest in Envision Avila. Materials and surveys will be available following the workshop. For more information, please visit the project website at <http://www.envisionavila.org>.

Garden Party Bingo – As much as we were looking forward to inviting all of you to our Healing Garden for a bingo party, we are going to have to reschedule this event. Watch our website or call me with any questions or to get further information.

ASK Campaign – The ASK Campaign is a major method for raising funds to enable the Avila Beach Civic Association to maintain and operate the Community Center. We are fortunate that one of our members has offered to match new funds raised through this program. If you are interested, please call me at 805-627-1997. Thank you for your support.

Healing Garden Commemorative Engraved Paver Program – The Civic Association continues to accept orders for engraved bricks through our Commemorative Engraved Paver Program. We have installed 145 bricks which honor and remember many members of our community currently living in or visiting the greater Avila Beach area as well as loved ones who have left us. If you are interested in purchasing a brick, please contact me.

Avila Beach Community Center Rentals – The Avila Beach Community Center is available for rental for your parties and other special events. We have a large Multi-Purpose Room that can accommodate meetings, reunions, wedding receptions, or any gathering. In addition, our Healing Garden, with its plants and the arbor, makes a beautiful backdrop for your wedding or special occasion when you rent the Community Center. Non-profit organizations, who are members, receive 10% off our rental rate. For more information, availability, and rates when we are allow to open, please contact me.

Get Involved - The Avila Beach Civic Association is always in need of people who want to become involved. As you have read above, we have variety of opportunities. If you have a few hours to spare and would like to work in our garden, on our website, in our office, or at our future events, please contact me.

ABCA 2020 MEMBERSHIP FORM

We are very grateful for all of you who have renewed your 2020 memberships and to any of you who will be renewing or becoming new members this year to support the programs and operations of the Avila Beach Community Center. The **Avila Bay Athletic Club & Spa** is continuing to offer discounts to all our ABCA members and, as a special bonus, all members will be given a **one-week pass** with new or renewal memberships for 2020. Please join us today and let us know if you are interested in getting more involved with your community.

Business Membership:

- \$100 Level includes facility rental discount and website recognition.
- \$250 Level includes facility rental discount, website recognition, and business link.
- \$500 Level includes facility rental discount, website recognition, business link, and one event sponsor.

Individual Membership:

- \$25 Level includes an ABCA pin.

- \$50 Level includes an ABCA pin or a coffee mug.
- \$100 Level includes an ABCA pin and a coffee mug.

The Avila Beach Civic Association is a non-profit organization (95-6067627).

Please make checks payable to: **ABCA, PO Box 154, Avila Beach, CA 93424**. Thank you for your support.

AVILA BEACH CIVIC ASSOCIATION CLASSES AT THE COMMUNITY CENTER

Courses for Seniors through Cuesta Emeritus College – Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the **Emeritus College at Cuesta** will be offering a free **Drawing** online Zoom class beginning on Monday, August 17, through October 12, from 1-4 p.m. for their Fall session. This class introduces the theory and practice of drawing as visual communication for both non-art and art majors. Drawing is presented as a basic expression of visual thinking, combines practicality and aesthetic sense in an alternating sequence of observation and responses. It explores concepts, techniques, and conventions in contemporary and historical cultural contexts. As soon as details are available, we will list the information on our website avilabeachcc.com or you can check on cuesta.edu/academics/continuinged/emeritus/index.html.

SAN LUIS COASTAL ADULT SCHOOL CLASSES OFFERED AT THE AVILA BEACH COMMUNITY CENTER

Gentle Yoga and Strength Training are on hold until further notice due to COVID-19. Please check our website avilabeachcc.com or San Luis Coastal Adult School at 805-549-1222 or ae.slcsd.org.

PEACE LUTHERAN CHURCH

Lifetree Café – Currently on hold, but for information regarding future free, one-hour experiences that are packed with interesting stories, fascinating people, and lively conversations that will feed your soul, please call 805-489-2708 or info@peacearroyogrande.com.

Pet of the Month (Picture #1 – Sandy and Murray)

By Mary Foppiano

In February 2010, a small 4-month old puppy had been roaming the streets and scratched at the front door of a Meter Reader in Bakersfield. Sandy Fredericks was visiting the community and fell in love with him. She said that it had been five years since she had a dog but could not leave town without Murray. He almost died because he was so sick, but she nursed him back to health and he has had over ten years of a happy life.

Murray and my dog Casey, who died a couple of years ago, were best friends and showed me the dog hug for the first time. This is where they stand up on their hind paws and put their front paws on the shoulders of the other. This was so special and demonstrates how really loving pets can be.

Murray is very shy and compliant...and aloof like a cat. He enjoys his walks, people, and other dogs, and has a favorite stuffed toy. However, he really like cats and especially the feral cat that lives by the Water Company. Sandy said that she is even considering adopting a kitten so that Murray will not be lonely during the day when she must be gone. I bet that Murray will even share his toys with a new friend.

Please send me your pictures and a short paragraph about your pet to avilabeachcc@gmail.com. Thanks, and introduce us to your furry friend next month!

Community Spotlight

By Mary Foppiano **(Picture #2 – Maureen and Brian Somodi w/ Mickey and Mia)**

My friends Brian and Maureen Somodi have resided in Indian Hill, which is part of the San Luis Bay Estates, since July 2012. Moving from Orange County, they sought the space, beauty, and relaxing community comradery of the Central Coast upon retirement. The residential area of Indian Hill has given them all the solace and feeling of togetherness that they wished for after their busy and compacted life in So Cal.

Brian was the CEO of his own company Mobile-Tronics and a real estate broker and appraiser. He is a consummate chef and cannot wait to share some of his new finds when our sheltering-in-place is finished. Maureen has a Master's in Special Education and taught elementary students. She also lectured parents, fellow teachers, and university students in areas of learning styles, support techniques for students who needed alternative learning processes, and mainstreaming techniques. Maureen now enjoys reading, fiber and needle artworks, knitting items to donate to Hospice, painting, and writing a family anthology and autobiography starting from the 1600s. She has also reawakened to a new love of writing poetry involving Avila Beach humanness and coping strategies in present times.

Maureen has worked with a team in Indian Hill for seven years to successfully lead a Christmas gala called GATHERING OF THE GIFTS, an event that garners gifts for SLO federally funded preschool children. She and Brian participate with another team to organize a WELCOME event for new residents to Indian Hill in an outstanding party every February that further fosters Avila's mission to socially include everyone.

As a five-year docent for the Port San Luis Lighthouse, Maureen totally enjoyed the wonderful and fulfilling experience. She said the history and ambiance of this treasure atop the majestic Avila coastline offers tours, special events, and a 4th grade program that she loved assisting during her time at this venue.

Worldwide traveling and frequent camping trips in their 5th wheel round out their very full lives with their Morky Mia and their Yorky Mickey. Since moving here, they have been involved in a number of philanthropic community endeavors and presently work every week for the 5 Cities Women's Christian Food Bank in Grover Beach. The Avila Beach Community Center is a favorite place of theirs for enjoying the Avila Apple Festival, spaghetti dinners and bingo nights, and other fun events.

The comradery of Avila seeps into the enjoyment of SLO arts, music, theater, and PAC performances. Maureen said that they are honored to support the community of Avila Beach and needs in surrounding cities and look forward to reawakening of social interaction in our new normal.