

FRIENDS OF VILLA GRANDE NEWS

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OUR MISSION:

- ❖ PRESERVE THE NATURAL RESOURCE, THE NATIVE FLORA AND FAUNA OF THE BEACH
- ❖ BE FINANCIALLY PRUDENT IN THE BEACH'S ACQUISITION AND MANAGEMENT
- ❖ KEEP THE BEACH OPEN AND ACCESSIBLE TO MEMBERS OF THE VILLA GRANDE COMMUNITY, THEIR FAMILIES, FRIENDS AND THE PUBLIC

FOVG NOW OWNS PATTERSON POINT!

In a breathtaking race to the finish line, Friends of Villa Grande closed escrow and secured title to Patterson Point at 8:45 a.m. on Thursday, September 17th, 2009.

Last minute issues threatened the successful completion of the escrow including the falling of a dead oak tree a week earlier, a neighbor's demand for a boundary line adjustment, the threat of a CEQA challenge and an amazing array of paperwork among four participating parties. In the end, FoVG, the Sonoma County Agricultural Preservation and Open Space District, the Torr family and the legal team representing an adjacent land owner came together to close the deal. Many thanks to Kyla Brooke and a team of FoVG Board members, including Roberto Esteves, Ken Wikle and Mike McCabe.

This accomplishment has been a community effort. We are especially grateful for the generosity of Jim and Marcy Beck, Ron Bosch, Andrew Ahn and Sin Soracco, Roberto Esteves, Elin and Robin Firth, Suki and Natalie Robb-Wilder, and Linda Fisher who lent matching funds to secure the land.

The acquisition of Patterson Point required the patience and expertise of everyone involved. We should all feel proud to have done something that will benefit our children, grandchildren, extended families and friends. Your participation helped the or-

ganization accomplish a goal that benefits the entire community. The FoVG Board of Directors could not have completed the acquisition without the incredible level of support and clear direction that was provided by the community, including our members who live outside the immediate area. We should give ourselves a pat on the back for accomplishing this tremendous feat that will insure perpetual public access to our beautiful Patterson Point Preserve and beach.

We now move to the next phase, which includes restoration of native vegetation and long-term maintenance of the Preserve. Your Board will be presenting many fund raising efforts to repay our indebtedness as well as provide for ongoing needs. Your dues and participation are important parts of these fundraising activities. Please make sure that your dues are current and continue to encourage friends and family to join FOVG so we can maintain this exceptional property.

Thank you for your vision and support.

With gratitude and respect,

Rich Holmer

President of the Board of Directors
Friends of Villa Grande

WINTER BLACK & WHITE DINNER

Dress up in your white gown or black tie and celebrate at the second annual Friends of Villa Grande Black & White Dinner. This year's event starts with a complimentary cocktail, followed by a three-course dinner with wine, then dancing to the Tracy Rose Trio.

The event starts at six o'clock on January 23rd at the Village Inn, in Monte Rio, a setting of the 1942 movie *Holiday Inn*. We will reprise the gaiety of that time with a

special "Holiday Inn" cocktail. Tickets are \$100, and seating is limited to 50.

To reserve tickets and select your entrée call Kate at (707) 865-9108, on the web at www.villagrande.org or email friends.villagrande@gmail.com

The Village Inn is offering a special \$85 room rate if you mention you're coming to the FoVG Dinner. Contact them at (707) 865-2304 or www.villageinn-ca.com.

PATTERSON POINT PRESERVE OFFICIALLY OPENS

On a sunny Sunday, November 15th, Efren Carrillo (county supervisor for District 5), DeAnna Kamber (FoVG's Project Manager at the Sonoma County Agricultural Preservation & Open Space District) and Bill Keene (General Manager of the SCAPOSD), officiated at the cutting of the yellow "caution" tape that officially opened Patterson Point Preserve. Sin Soracco led the approximately 60 participants down to the beach where she presented a dedication praising the natural wonders of our newly acquired land.

Ron Bosch and his partner Rock Ross then led the group in a rousing rendition of the Villa Mater which was accompanied by the event's coordinator Kyla Brooke on the glockenspiel. The festivities ended with a champagne toast by Roberto Esteves and a commemorative cake.

Patterson Point Preserve is now officially open!

More photos are on the website: www.villagrande.org



Before...



... After! Jon Box levels the new sign



Executive Director Roberto Esteves leads the toast



Supervisor Efren Carrillo, Board President Rich Holmer and Past President Ken Wikle do the honors with hedge clippers



Kyla Brooke and friends serenade the crowd

FOVG LAUNCHES RESTORATION EFFORT

Under the able and experienced leadership of Victoria Wikle, FoVG has begun drafting a Patterson Point Restoration and Land Management Plan. Meanwhile, the FoVG Board has authorized the Restoration Committee to work on the issues of safety, erosion control, critical ivy removal, trash cleanup and any emergencies that may arise.

Work has started with a focus on safety and ivy removal from weakened trees. A professional climber has been retained to remove dangerous branches and to restore tree health by stripping ivy from trees. To stretch FoVG funding, we invite you to join a merry team of volunteers that will haul away

branches and ivy for recycling. The team will also create two foot ivy-free zones around each tree so the ivy doesn't start climbing immediately. The next work party will be on January 23rd from 9:00 am to noon.

The Restoration Committee is also looking for volunteers willing to provide refreshments for the work crew. Tea, juice and other liquids would be most welcome. A refreshment break also provides an opportunity to express appreciation to the work team, review progress and make plans for the next session. If you would like to help as a worker or a refresher, let Victoria know at VictoriaWikle@usa.net or (707) 865-2474.

A SUNDAY IN NEW ORLEANS

The sounds of foot-stomping Cajun music by Tom Rigney and Flambeau plus tunes from the Villa Grande Wanderers and the Love Chorus, and the delightful Creole cooking of Chef Maria Vieages made this FoVG Labor Day Cajun Concert fun for the 300+ attendees. Clearing more than \$1,200, the fundraiser will allow FoVG to begin its restoration work on the Patterson Point Preserve.

A special thanks to event producer, Greg Sampson, along with Susan Sampson, Korbel Champagne Cellars, The Pink Elephant and the many FoVG volunteers and friends who made this event so special.



*Flambeau string section.
Find more photos at www.villagrande.org*

FERRELLGAS DISCOUNT OFFER

The FoVG Board of Directors and the management of FerrellGas are pleased to announce a special discount program for FoVG members. After a request for proposals for discounted propane services from the major suppliers in the West Sonoma County area, the Board accepted the FerrellGas plan, which is now incorporated into an exclusive two year agreement.

Until December 31, 2011, members may purchase propane from FerrellGas, with the following provisions:

- The price for propane is 78 cents per gallon over the Bay Area refinery cost of propane. If more than 40 new customers participate, the premium will be reduced to 70 cents. On December 29th, 2009, this puts the cost per gallon at \$2.43 compared to the regular price of \$3.50.
- There is an additional hazardous material (hazmat) and fuel surcharge of \$13.00 per delivery.
- Tank rentals are discounted 20%. This means tanks up to 288 gallons cost \$48/year versus \$60, and larger tanks are \$72 versus \$90. If you own your tank, obviously this doesn't apply.
- FoVG members who joined in 2006-07 are entitled to the discount regardless of residence location. Members who joined after January 1, 2008 must live south of the Russian River in the area bordered by Main Street in Monte Rio (excluding the area of piped gas distribution) westward to the bridge at Duncan's Mills.
- You must be a current member of FoVG. You can renew your membership at www.villagrande.org or Contact Roberto Esteves, FoVG Executive Director if you have questions: esteves@comcast.net or (415) 282-1800.

To sign up for this offer, contact the Guerneville office of FerrellGas at (707) 869-0634 and identify yourself as an FoVG member. They will confirm your membership and arrange for a new tank if needed. FerrellGas prefers to switch tanks that read at 30% capacity or less, and will pump your remaining gas into the new tank.

BY THE DATES:

FoVG Founded
June 2007

Escrow Closed
**September 17
2009**

Restoration
Work Party

**January 23rd
9 a.m.–noon**

FoVG Town
Hall Meeting

**January 23rd
1 p.m.**

Black & White
Dinner

**January 23rd
6 p.m.**

Second Annual
Treasure Chest

July 2010



Ridge Fog - Marcy Beck

PLEASE SEND ITEMS OF COMMUNITY INTEREST OR
PHOTOS FOR FUTURE NEWSLETTERS TO
FOVGNEWS@GMAIL.COM

FOVG - PO BOX 28
VILLA GRANDE, CA 95486

FOVG TOWN MEETING JANUARY 23RD, 1:00 P.M.

Hear Ye, Hear Ye... There will be a community meeting on Saturday, January 23rd at 1:00 p.m. at the Old Hotel (21849 East Street) to discuss the plans for Patterson Point Preserve and future fundraising ideas. Come give us your thoughts and join in writing the next chapter of the Patterson Point Preserve story. The agenda for the meeting is posted on the post office fence and on the web at www.villagrande.org.

PLAN NOW FOR THE 2010 TREASURE CHEST SALE

Many thanks to everyone who contributed or purchased at our successful Treasure Chest sale last year! We will be holding our second annual sale again in July, but we can accept a limited amount of donations anytime. We need furniture, art, household items, women's accessories and garden tools. Donations are tax deductible and can be included in your 2010 deductions. Please call Kate at (707) 865-9108 for more information or if you need us to store your donations until the sale.

Friends of Villa Grande
PO Box 28
Villa Grande, CA 95486

ON THE WEB AT:

WWW.VILLAGRANDE.ORG
