

# THE OLD ROAD NEWSLETTER

Published by the Malibu Road Property Owner's Association

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## CONGRATULATIONS TO WINNERS OF CITY COUNCIL ELECTION!

In the April 9, 2002, election Malibu voters re-elected Sharon Barovsky (Malibu Road Resident and Past President of our Association) and elected former Planning Commissioner Andy Stern to serve on our City Council for the next four years.

They join Jeff Jennings, Ken Kearsley and Joan House on a Council that has an enormous task ahead, not the least of which is dealing with the Coastal Commission in a major effort to insure that Malibu's voice prevails in writing our LCP. We wish our Council People well!

## DUES, DUES, LAST CALL FOR MRPOA DUES!

Thanks to all who have paid their 2002 dues - if you receive a dues envelope with this newsletter, our records show you have not paid. Our MRPOA dues fund a lot of good causes for Road Residents such as:

- Providing a forum for Road-related issues AND taking action when faced with a crisis
- Liaison with City, Sheriff's Department and other governmental agencies on Road-related problems such as overnight transient parking, speed enforcement, etc.
- Weekly road cleanup
- This informative Newsletter
- Legal advice and representation when warranted
- Updates and notices about urgent Malibu topics
- Speed control signs
- Dog-cleanup signs

And more. Remember, the MRPOA *exists* to be *your* advocate. So, please, get out that checkbook and join us today! The

MRPOA is here for renters and owners alike.

## MALIBU NEEDS BETTER PUBLIC RELATIONS!

In light of the recent "anti-Malibu" stories in the media, your MRPOA Board voted to send a letter to our City Council urging them to respond to the negative press we have been receiving. The following was delivered on May 13<sup>th</sup>, 2002:

Dear Mayor and City Council Members:

Like it or not, we live in an era where political issues are fought and won by using the media to manipulate public perceptions. It is time for the City of Malibu to stop playing the role of victim, to start playing the game – before the game is lost.

As we are sure you're aware, there has been a recent spate of distorted publicity about Malibu and its citizens in the press and on TV. In particular we call your attention to the enclosed piece from the May 3<sup>rd</sup> edition of *USA Today*, MALIBU'S RICH AND FAMOUS FIGHT TO KEEP BEACH PRIVATE, currently posted on their website, along with a streaming video that is similarly biased. As concerned residents, we are appalled by the one-sided slant of these stories. They fail to address the questionable legitimacy – and risk to the public and to the government – of the Coastal Commission's policies.

The beach access issue, as we know, is misguided in many ways. But perhaps most significantly, the Commission's insistence on public access in residential areas – to beaches with no lifeguards, no toilet facilities or parking space – creates serious potential risk to the public, as well as liability for the State, the County, the City and for homeowners. Moreover, the risk is totally unnecessary: there are already miles of unparalleled, beautifully-maintained public beaches in Malibu. That is the story that is not being told.

Someone with a paranoid bent could even suspect that certain special interests might be behind such biased reporting – in effect, mounting a kind of media war against Malibu. That *clearly* farfetched possibility notwithstanding, the Malibu Road Property Owners Association *urges* the City Council to allocate revenues for a *professional* PR campaign to help achieve more balanced coverage of this story. To enlist some of our rich-and-famous to help tell the *real* story.

Sincerely,  
Thomas B. Sawyer  
President

## DOGGIE DOINGS

Several meetings have been held in recent weeks by groups of resident dog owners alarmed by the aggressive tactics of certain parties regarding dogs on the beach. Physical and verbal threats have reportedly been exchanged.

One resident claims to have witnessed the “forcing of leashed dogs and their owners into the water as they try to pass in an obvious attempt to provoke the dogs,” as well as having received accounts of “rock throwing, sticks brandished, ...surfboard being used as a weapon and pepper spray actually being sprayed.”

Not a pretty picture. While the MRPOA is unable, for legal reasons, to take a stand on this matter, the Board urges all parties to maintain their cool.

## ADDITIONAL CLEANUP

The usual summer post-weekend trash problems caused by beachgoers in the area of the Corral Beach access at the west end of Malibu Road are just about upon us.

Road resident Gary Carroll alerted us to this problem at our Annual Meeting, and as a result, the MRPOA Board has voted to augment our customary Saturday trash collection with a Monday cleanup during the summer months.

*Newsletter written by Holly & Tom Sawyer*

## SURVEY OF RESIDENTS' CONCERNS

We thank all of those who filled out the RESIDENTS' CONCERNS forms at the Annual Meeting on March 20<sup>th</sup>. Among those we received were viewpoints both for and against dogs, and several complaints about the Coastal Commission's plans for Malibu. The Road Association sent a letter about this to Governor Davis on March 21<sup>st</sup>. Those of you who would like to express your feelings directly to the Governor should write to:

Governor Gray Davis

State Capitol

First Floor

Sacramento, CA 95814

Subject: California Coastal Commission LCP for Malibu.

(we suggest that you cc: City Council, City of Malibu, 23555 Civic Center Way, Malibu, CA 90265)

Also included was Mr. Carroll's above-referenced suggestion about Road Cleanup. A request from Helen Lotspiech that an effort be made to make the speed limit signs more visible is being addressed.

We welcome your suggestions and concerns, and we promise to give them our attention.

## HELPFUL PHONE NUMBERS

EMERGENCY, of course	911
Sheriff	456.6652
Fire	317.1122
City of Malibu	456.2489
Lifeguard	457.2525
Animal Control & Care	(818) 991.0071
Sanitation Dept.	(800) 773.2784

Call this # for pick-up of oversize items and other special requests.

Wildlife Rescue	457.WILD
Dead seal on beach burial	317.4717

We have a contract with the Labor Exchange for this.

MRPOA	317.1040
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