

Hello FFF Supporters ~

It has been two months since our last newsletter and there is much to report about our campaign.

### **Board of Supervisors**

As you know, we met with four of five supervisors. Only Greg Caput showed no interest in meeting with us, although I had arranged twice to meet with him, via his assistant. Once I was stood up and the second time they never got back to me. We obviously have our work cut out for us to bring District 4 as well as the City of Watsonville into this campaign.

The other four Supervisors are very supportive of our recommendations, as reported in Newsletter #9 (2/6/16). John Leopold (District 1) and Zach Friend (District 2) have taken the lead on the issue in developing Board actions on our recommendations for the BOS specifically.

One of our recommendations was to see if the County's Citizen Connect app can be used for reporting fireworks. Zach Friend told us the Citizen Connect app is not linked to the 911 dispatch system, as it was never intended to replace 911. It is for reporting on-going problems, not things that are going on right now, which should be reported to 911. Things reported on Citizen Connect go to Public Works or other Departments as a heads-up about long term concerns, such as pot holes,

water leaks, etc.

## **Neighborhood Patrols**

The Countywide Fireworks Team met in February. It is at these annual meetings where plans are developed for the July 4th weekend.

In March, we learned from John Leopold that the law enforcement has plans for officers to be ***in the neighborhoods*** much more this July 4th weekend. They are dividing the neighborhoods into sections, assigning an officer to each section. They will be especially looking at areas of known problems (hot spots) from past reports.

Meanwhile, the best thing you can do is to report neighborhood **hot spots**. Please send a description, with as much specific location detail, directly to me by replying to this email. I will compile all reports into one document to send to the Sheriff and SCPD. This should get to them by mid-May, so they have time to review it and be ready for Memorial Day weekend (when bombs will burst in air).

We can encourage them to use the Memorial Day weekend as an opportunity to test the hot spot system in preparation for July 4th.

Another thing you can all do is continue to call the Sheriff or SCPD and report individual explosions - as they happen, being as specific as possible about location. This will also create a location pattern for law enforcement that

they can use in preparation for the July 4th weekend.

### **Good Efforts by You**

Individually, your own efforts do make a difference!  
Here are two examples.

First, after reading a news article in the Sentinel, **Eve Roberson** emailed a Letter to the Editor, which was immediately published. Here is her LTE:

<http://www.santacruzsentinel.com/opinion/20160226/letters-feb-27-2016-posner-has-credibility-problem-of-the-highest-order>

#### **Consider sparing residents dreadfully loud fireworks**

*The Capitola City Council has just approved the Monte Foundation spending beaucoup bucks again this year to put on its massive fireworks display, with the promise that the event will support the new Capitola Library. I have an idea: How about just donating all that money going up in smoke and air pollution to the Library Fund instead? These Beirut-style blasts that terrify our defenseless cats and dogs all over the area would definitely thank the foundation, as would the rest of the taxpayers funding the library. A win-win situation!*

*— Eve Roberson, Live Oak*

Thanks, Eve!!

Eve's LTE was in response to the following Sentinel article. Note the bolded portions of this article -- we have

some good support on the Capitola City Council and we should consider making a presentation to them at one of their meetings in May or June. Unfortunately the Police Chief defended the fireworks show. Read it here:

<http://www.santacruzsentinel.com/government-and-politics/20160225/capitola-surf-schools-warned-to-be-cool-or-beat-it>

*In other action, the City Council voted 5-0 in favor of authorizing City Manager Jaime Goldstein to issue a special event permit to the [Monte Foundation](#) for its annual fireworks show on Oct. 9.*

*Police Chief Rudy Escalante listed the numerous ways the fireworks show has financially benefited city of Capitola projects and said no negative incidents have been associated with the event other than a change of wind direction last year that blew much of the smoke and ash toward the city's Jewel Box neighborhood.*

*Despite voting in favor of the event, **Norton expressed concerns about the fireworks show's effects on the environment.***

*"All the cars on Depot Hill that night were covered with ash," Norton said. **"What we throw up in the air, comes back down. It's going into our oceans and into our beaches."***

*The fireworks show requires a permit from the Monterey Bay Marine Sanctuary and the California Coastal Commission, according to Goldstein.*

*Termini expressed community members' **request for a "less aggressive" firework display that was "a little***

***less like downtown Beirut.”***

To read any LTEs from residents of Santa Cruz City and/or County, go to our [News & Articles web page](#). You'll also read another LTE about the Capitola show by a resident who is not associated with FFF.

The second example of individual effort comes from ***Dick & Ramona Andre***, a dynamic duo.

1. From them we learned of an item on p. 8 of the Feb. 11-17 Monterey County Weekly: CONTROLLED BURN...Behind a Salinas ballot measure that seeks to restore the sale of "safe and sane" fireworks are thousands of dollars in contributions from fireworks companies. Citizens for a Safer Fourth of July, the group behind the measure, received \$83,021 from TNT Fireworks and Big Bear Fireworks, Inc.

2. Both Dick and Ramona called local commercial radio station KSCO and spoke about problems with fireworks and pitched our Freedom From Fireworks campaign.

3. Ramona also call in to KUSP's Dr. Dawn show. A 3 minute audio tape of Ramona's conversation with Dr. Dawn can be heard by clicking [HERE](#). This video can also be downloaded by going to the News & Articles web page and scrolling down to February 13.

Dick urges all of us to do call radio stations. There are various live call in shows at KSCO that can be reached by calling 831-479-1080. Dick and Ramona both called the Dave Michaels show once, and Ramona a second time, and "*straightened out their thinking on fireworks--with many plugs for FFF.*"

Many, many thanks to Dick and Ramona for being willing to speak on public media whenever possible. They are still alive and well, so worries about retribution are baseless :o)

### **Now what?**

After a good rainy season, the holidays are upon us and people are coming out of the woodwork. Once more fireworks are beginning to destroy the peace of our neighborhoods. Just because there have been a few explosions does not mean our campaign has been unsuccessful. Remember, we knew going into this that it would take many years to solve a huge problem that has had almost 20 years to develop. So, hang in there, be patient and persuasive. Spread the word of our campaign to friends, family and neighbors. Feel free to share this newsletter. Make calls to report fireworks and be sure to send me your hot spot descriptions.

Look for another newsletter hopefully within a month.

All the best,

Jean Brocklebank  
[Freedom From Fireworks](#)  
On [Facebook](#)