



The Pescadero Fish Wrap

February/March 2020

Community Highlight: Charlea Binford

Charlea Binford first moved to the Pescadero area in 2013 and has been happy to call this town home ever since. She started her life off in Pescadero through a program called World Wide Opportunities on Organic Farms (WWOOF), where she worked on a farm and received meals and a place to stay in exchange. This was an opportunity that brought her back to her family's farming roots in Indiana.

Later on, Charlea was offered a position as an English teacher in the area. This position also allowed her to have the opportunity to run a youth program and begin another program for women that taught them the basics of car care, changing tires, checking oil, etc. Last year she was asked to become the athletic director of the Pescadero Middle and High School, a position she has held ever since. Charlea is now in charge of the school athletics and is the coach for several of the high school and middle school sports.

While being involved with so many sports is exciting, becoming a coach for all of these different sports was not always fun and games. Charlea has had to put a lot of work

into really learning how each of the sports work and how to coach them well, "there's a lot of things I didn't know how to do. Things like keeping the books was new to me because I've always played sports, but never had to do books," Charlea stated.

Charlea expressed that all of the teams' equipment and uniforms are supplied through Boosters and various fundraisers like Hoop Dreams, garden tours, and Duarte's dinners. Bay Area Custom Homes (BACH) recently decided to become a team sponsor to provide teams with essential basics that they currently do not have access to. She hopes to get some more sponsors to further support the teams and get some much-needed equipment and uniforms so students can reach their full athletic potential.

Supporting the Pescadero Middle and High School sports teams can come in multiple forms. Locals can support by donating at various fundraising events, reaching out to possible sponsors, attending games, supporting the teams, and even considering becoming a coach. "When people ask me what they can do to help, I always say

'we need more coaches!'" Charlea stated. It's impossible to have a fully functioning team without the dedication and guidance of a designated coach.



Charlea loves spending time outdoors whenever she gets a chance.

The middle school volleyball, basketball, and soccer teams are in most need of coaches. No previous experience is needed, in fact Charlea herself coached the soccer team at the elementary school level without any prior knowledge. Charlea said she just "took the time to watch YouTube videos and look up soccer drills to kind of figure it

out, the teams needed a coach so I made it happen.” The students just need the time commitment of an individual who is willing to support them.

Charlea doesn’t just support the athletes and sports teams, she recently did a gym clean up where she and many volunteers took the time to make the sports gym look put together and clean. “The fire department is always very helpful during clean up days, they did all the landscaping and trimming of the bushes during the last clean-up day, which was super helpful,” Charlea stated.

This past year Charlea was able to get a grant from South Coast Artist Alliance (SCAA) to fund the large mural on the back of the gym.

Another mural is being created this year for another spot on campus, Charlea thinks that the best part is that “the kids are the ones doing it, they design it, and then there’s a lead artist that pulls all the ideas together to make one big final design, and then a few days later it is up and painted.”

Charlea is so dedicated to this school and all the students who are a part of it; she hopes to continue to improve the athletic and educational opportunities offered to both middle and high school students. She has already made so many so improvements but needs the consistent support from community to continue to be able to provide more experiences and programs for the middle and high school students.

If you want to help, there are many simple ways to support: donations, getting involved with fundraisers, becoming a sponsor, attending to clean-up days, becoming a team coach, attending and supporting students at games, helping with general maintenance of the fields and courts, sponsoring a single kid, and much more opportunities to help out throughout the year.

You can reach out to Charlea to start participating in the athletic program or offering ways to help by contacting:

cbinford@lhpUSD.com

or calling the school at:
(650)-879-0274

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Upcoming Community Events

March and April PMAC Meeting

Locals Night Loma Mar Store

Church Pancake Breakfast

March 10 and April 14, 7:00pm-8:30pm

Come learn about whats happening in the community and get a chance to give your input on community decisions. Come at 6:30 for coffee and snacks before the meeting!

Where: Pescadero Community Church, 363 Stage Rd

Every Thursday, 6:00pm-8:00pm

Get a chance to hangout with fellow locals while enjoying dinner and a beer!

Where: The Loma Mar Store

March 15, 9:00am-11:00am

\$5/plate for a choice of a pancake, waffle, or blueberry pancake plate including eggs and sausage along with your choice of beverage. Everyone Welcome!

Where: Pescadero Community Church, 363 Stage Rd

PMAC Pond and Other Ripples

Upcoming meetings; **March 10 and April 14.**

The council is looking into the feasibility of getting a generator placed at the CSA-11 well site in preparation for upcoming power outages. Any way you cut it, we still need water and especially if there's a fire threat! According to the census office we were undercounted in 2010 by 3,500 people in the area. (Maybe that's enough to get Cindy's rebuilt?) ']

We will have a speaker at the April meeting to inform us as to how Measure K funds are being spent (invested) to our benefit. Won't want to miss this one. The CDF will start sending out reminders/ notices regarding fire safety around properties. If we get no more rain than we did in February this will be a majorly big concern. There's been a 2.5-million-dollar grant from CalFire for forest health and fire resilience work in our area, to

include Pescadero County Park, Butano Girl Scout Camp and others. In other words, fuel loads will be reduced and even though it's way overdue, we'll take it.

MROSD & POST presented their interest in modifying the LCP to allow them to correct and accomplish sales and transfer of donated and purchased properties they own/control. It's involved and the really big scare is the unintended consequences that always happen in spite of some great and not so great minds trying to pre-think and/or avoid them. It is not a done deal yet, but county planning staff is pretty much behind this effort.

The Farm Bureau and the Ag Council have weighed in with their concerns, but we'll see where this goes. We've posted the slide show and the letter from the Farm Bureau and Ag Council on the PFW website if you'd like to read them.

Primary concern is and has always been loss in property tax revenues to the LHPUSD. We're suffering major losses as a result of non-profit and public benefit entities not having to pay taxes or choosing not to.

Back in 2004 MROSD entered into an agreement with the school district to pay token dollar amounts on property acquired by them (realize that they are funded by the taxpayers in the county. I know it's weird!) The agreement is not based on actual market value but some odd formula. As those of us that own property in the district know, we've subsidized the schools by volunteering to tax ourselves an additional \$100 per year per parcel and so far, it's been \$1,400 over the past 14 years. Since this will hit the streets before the election results are announced the 30% increase and another 7-year extension being asked for may or may not pass. So basically, we're subsidizing (albeit

a penitence) the taxes POST and MidPen aren't paying. Weird again I know.

Maybe there's a token way they could show their support for the community; Charlea (see the community profile on the cover) has to replace all of the cyclone fencing at the high school baseball field and the estimate she has is \$9,000 from All Fence. Can't do it through the school district as the price would be a minimum of \$14,000 so a donation is the only affordable way to do it. If we just had some residents in the top income brackets around here, perhaps they could promote their companies or themselves on the fencing around the field as an advertising opportunity. That's what they do in the major leagues :-}

Here's another interesting one from up the Sacramento river.

AB2363 has been enacted.*

It provides the Secretary of Transportation to prepare and submit a report of findings**

Current legislation: Allows a reduction of 5 mph from the 85% speed. So if Pescadero Creek Road speeds are at 44 mph from Wurr Road to Wurr Road, the current law would make the speed 45 mph (rounded to nearest 5 mph) Then we would apply a reduction of 5 mph would bring the speed limit in Loma Mar to 40 mph in lieu of the 25 mph that the community wants and needs for its pedestrians and cyclists.

In addition, the current definition of Residential and Business district allows us to restrict speeds in

residential and business districts to 25 mph provided:

a) Residential density, if any of the following conditions exist on the particular portion of highway and the property contiguous thereto, other than a business district: Upon one side of the highway, within 0.25 miles, the contiguous property fronting thereon is occupied by 13 or more separate dwelling houses or business structures.

b) Upon both sides of the highway, collectively, within a distance of 0.25 miles the contiguous property fronting thereon is occupied by 16 or more separate dwelling houses or business structures

c) The portion of highway is larger than 0.25 miles but has the ratio of separate dwelling houses or business structures to the length of the highway described in either subparagraph 1 or 2 above."

As the lots are large and spaced far apart in Loma Mar, we could not use the residential or business district definitions to reduce the speed to 25 mph in Loma Mar and be enforced. $\frac{1}{4}$ mile = 1320 feet. In this distance, there are 10 lots on one side of the road or 19 lots on both sides of the road. But not all the lots have driveways that are contiguous with Pescadero Creek Road so the 25 mph rule cannot apply.

If the rule can be adjusted to take into account the lots on the side roads also, then we can make a case for the 25 mph.

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<https://pescaderoessentials.schedulista.com>

For example: re-define residential and business district as a minimum 16 separate dwelling houses or businesses within a 0.25 mile radius would be a reasonable revision to the current regulation to help communities like Loma Mar and other areas in San Mateo County to keep the speed limits low where small population centers concentrate.

In addition, if the state can allow automated speed enforcement cameras for rural districts, then you will have better enforcement also. Currently automated speed cameras are not allowed in California.

***Please write to let him know that you strongly support legislation that will modify the definition of residential and business districts that will help reduce speed in these rural communities and explain the issue that you have and how it affects your community.

The current code is negative to rural communities. AB2363 is trying to figure out if they should change the current code.

So please ask the state to re-define residential and business district as a minimum 16 separate dwelling houses or businesses within a 0.25



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<https://rnrfresh.com/>

mile radius of the center of the speed zone.

-Fil Let, TPFW reporter at large.
Sunshine Valley and Loma Mar you may wish to organize a writing/email campaign.

Contact Davis S. Kim:

Mail:

Davis S. Kim
Secretary of the California State Transportation Agency
915 Capitol Mall, Suite 350B
Sacramento, CA 95814

Phone:

(916) 323-5400
(916) 323-5440 fax

Email: the State Transportation Agency at:
contact.us@calsta.ca.gov

Source links:

* http://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billNavClient.xhtml?bill_id=201720180AB2363

**<https://cal.streetsblog.org/2020/02/06/zero-fatalities-task-force-report-change-the-way-speed-limits-are-set/>

***<https://www.speedingticketadvisor.org/speeding-red-light-camera-california/>

TPFW is starting a new feature as of our next amazing publication!

We haven't decided on a name yet but are fishing for something creative. Basically, it's an advice column for anyone wishing for some guidance, advice, suggestions, etc. The advice panel is made up of leading ladies in the communities and will answer your questions without judgement, blame, bias but with plenty of laughter.

Please email them to thepesaderofishwrap@gmail.com and we'll take it from there. All may participate as there's no age limit, or license required, no question is too fishy and you're guaranteed to get hooked.

Community Story: The Willow Farm

The Willow Farm has been a staple in the Pescadero area for over 20 years. This well-known and successful unique farm came to be through the owners, Neil and Alix Curry's hard work and dedication.

Neil was born and raised in Australia where he met his wife, Alix. Alix is from London where she graduated as a microbiologist before coming over to Australia in 1988. They ran a commercial blueberry together in Australia right after getting married. However, on a trip to New Zealand they came across a certain tree Neil immediately recognized as being something totally unique with many purposes, the willow tree. They then started their own willow business with the original name of Austrees.

Neil initially tried to get as many willow trees as he could to his blueberry farm, at times trading



Neil planting some of his high quality willow trees back in the day. He has hand planted many of the trees that are still on the farm today!

blueberry crops to make room for more trees. They started advertising their willows and got a huge demand from America and Canada "we got about 400-500 letters and phone calls in the middle of the night coming from Americans and Canadians wanting our trees," Neil stated.

In December of 1987 they decided to make the move to San Francisco in order to follow and provide for their main customer base in America. Moving all the way to a new country to start a business is always risky, and did not come with immense ease. There were many times when money was tight and uncertainty of their decision was lingering.

Despite all the difficulties, they never lost hope and kept working hard. They had to fly from the

United States to Australia and back to manage both their blueberry crops and the willow tree operations. However, in 2005 they decided it would be best to let go their blueberry farm back in Australia to be able to fully commit to their willow operation.

When first in San Francisco, Alix and Neil found themselves in very tight working quarters. "We would drive a 1971 Buick to the airport with the back seats taken out and filled it with all of our cuttings from Australia," Neil continued, "we then would package them into bundles in our small apartment in San Francisco. We would end up filling the entire elevator with boxes of these orders."

It soon became clear to them that they needed room to expand their business and connect back with



Many different structures can be built using the easily bendable branches of willow

nature. This is when they stumbled upon the Pescadero area and has called it home ever since.

After all of this hard work and dedication, the move across the world has paid off. The Willow Farm's trees are a desired commodity and have become known as a renewable and natural alternative to other plastic-based

products on the market. Their willow panels are strong, beautiful and effective, while creating a business that puts conservation at the forefront of their desires.

Today, Neil and Alix's daughter Layla now runs the Willow Farm and has been doing an amazing job taking over the family business. The Willow Farm is not open for walk-

on tours so to view the amazing work they have done over the years.

Check out their website:
www.thewillowfarm.com

Or follow them on social media :

Instagram: @thewillowfarm
Facebook: The Willow Farm

Catch of the Day

Are you smarter than a fishgrader? Take a few minutes to challenge and strengthen your brain with a few games!

Sudoku Puzzle

Directions:

Each puzzle consists of a 9x9 grid containing given clues in various places. The object is to fill all empty squares so that the numbers 1 to 9 appear exactly once in each row, column and 3x3 box.

			6					5
	2	5			9	6		
8					2			
4	9	6		2				
	1	7	5		4	9	6	
				6		1	4	7
			4					8
		2	8			7	9	
5					1			

Pescadero Athletics Wordsearch

Baseball	Athletics	Score
Track	Sports	Goal
Participation	Basketball	Jerseys
Teamwork	Soccer	
Vikings	Students	

P B S S K Q L M Z I R A S X S
S A I P I R X A S A T S T N O
O S R M O H O G O H Z W N V C
O K O T F R N W L G W N E O C
S E X Y I I T E M B H D D S E
O T O M K C T S T A U F U N R
R B A I S I I W H G E Y T R W
B A V J C G V P H K T T S G W
J L X S V Z O B A R H Z S M R
L L A B E S A B A T F B K X N
J E R S E Y S C M N I Z K R M
O N B G Q J K N H R E O N D T
G P I E G Y J E C G E X N T Y
M W L O W E E I S P N B O G I
J P E R O C S G D A T V N N L

Classified Ads

We hope The Pescadero Fish Wrap Classified Ads section can be an opportunity for local residents to post ads for the local community to see. These ads can include: help wanted, items for sale, job openings, etc. Wish to place a classified ad? It's as easier than catching a fish!

Send an email to: thepescaderofishwrap@gmail.com with the following information:

- Name and contact info
- What you want to advertise
- Information/measurements of ad content
- Pictures if applicable

Each ad is \$5

*****Additional items for sale, information on all items below, and contact information to buy for sale items can be found on our website: www.thepescaderofishwrap.com *****

Set of 3 Sterilite drawers \$15

- Size: 15 7/8" x 21 7/8" x 24"
- Practically NEW-no signs of wear

Set of 3 nesting side tables \$30/set

- 17-1/4"x21"x21-3/4",
- 16"x16-1/2"x18",
- 12-1/2"x13-1/2"x14-1/2"
- Solid wood, stained top, painted legs.

Craftsman Style Couch \$100

- Very comfortable, great condition.
- Long enough for an adult to sleep on
- Arms serve as side tables

-Very sturdy, no stains

-87"x 37-1/2"x 27-1/4"--including arms,

Art Deco style cabinet \$125

- Very sturdy, solid wood
- Had a previous life as additional kitchen storage and as a stand-alone bar.
- 48"x 20"x 34-1/2"

Dresser with 10 drawers!!!! \$70

- 4 small drawers and 6 larger drawers.
- Black with vintage ruler accents. Some minor wear on the top.
- 52-1/2"x 15"x32"

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Feel free to send any questions, comments, suggestions, or story ideas to our email:

thepescaderofishwrap@gmail.com