From: Steve McGrath
Sent: Tuesday, January 2, 2018 2:10 PM
To: Steve McGrath <smcgrath@smharbor.com>
Subject: From the Harbor District - New Year's Resolution

Our mission: To assure the public is served with clean, safe, well managed, financially sound and environmentally pleasant marinas.

In an effort to keep the community informed about the goings on at the San Mateo County Harbor District, I'll be sending out an informal e-mail on a somewhat regular basis (no deadlines or promises!). I'll try to keep it relevant, may use it to convey important or timely information, but also want to make it something you want to read. Feel free to forward this, to send me e-mail addresses to add to the list, or to ask to be saved from one more e-mail in the in box!

First, a New Year's resolution, and one I intend to keep: there will be more of these e-mails from me, telling you about the District. Kinda dropped away for a few months, but I will do better in 2018!

Having said which…
Happy New Year, one and all! I hope that your 2018 brings you health and happiness. At the District, we are working on ensuring that this year is better than last, and laying the ground work for next year to be better than this. May this be true for you too. (This, for me, will be true every year!)

Mavericks: so, a couple of things – as you may have heard, the World Surf League will be running the contest and received their Coastal Development Permit in December, so now it's up to the ocean to provide the necessary conditions. Also, congratulations to Deputy Harbormaster Ben Andrews, who has made the roster for the 2018 contest as one of the 'local wildcards'. Here's Ben, a bit younger, from an article (Santa Barbara Independent) about the 53' (!!) wave he rode at Mavericks in 2017, and the prize he won:

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https://smharbor.specialdistrict.org/strategic-planning

Also, for those interested in the redevelopment of the docks (F, G and H) on the east side of Johnson Pier at Pillar Point Harbor, watch for a notice soon about a public workshop seeking input from users, tenants and others.

Romeo Pier: the District executed a contract in 2017 with the Dutra Group for demolition of the Romeo Pier. Due to their very heavy work load, we then negotiated a considerable cost savings by agreeing to postpone the work until early 2018. We will let you know before any works starts.

Oyster Point – the big development by the marina seems to be off to a slow start, but as things develop, I'll let you know. Look for big changes in 2018.

Autonomous vehicles…and vessels? If we can develop autonomous cars and trucks, then surely we can do the same with seagoing vessels. This article from Marine Electronics outlines some of the work being done in this area:

https://www.marineelectronics.com/news/driverless-ships-autonomy-246547

The next regular meeting of the Board of Harbor Commissioners is scheduled for January 17, 6:30 p.m., and will be at the Municipal Building, 33 Arroyo, in South San Francisco. The agenda is yet to be finalized, but District organization and election of officers for 2018 will be the first order of business.

A poem for 2018

To the New Year

BY W. S. MERWIN

With what stillness at last
you appear in the valley
your first sunlight reaching down
to touch the tips of a few
high leaves that do not stir
as though they had not noticed
and did not know you at all
then the voice of a dove calls
from far away in itself
to the hush of the morning

so this is the sound of you
here and now whether or not
anyone hears it this is
where we have come with our age
our knowledge such as it is
and our hopes such as they are
invisible before us
untouched and still possible

"What can we ever hope to do with the western coast, a coast of three thousand miles, rock-bound, cheerless, uninviting, and not a harbor on it? What use have we for this country?... Mr. President, I will never vote one cent from the public treasury to place the Pacific coast one inch nearer to Boston than it is now." Daniel Webster (1782-1852)…and may be folklore.

Steve McGrath
General Manager
San Mateo County Harbor District

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