



Happy New Year!

Happy 40th Birthday to the City of Solana Beach

2026 marks an important anniversary for our community.

Bright and early on July 1, 1986, our first Mayor and City Council members were sworn in on the bluff above Fletcher Cove beach. Less than a month before, on June 3, 57 percent of voters had approved Proposition N, finally achieving the goal of a decades-long campaign for Solana Beach's cityhood.

I kind of grew up with the effort. My Mom, Marion Dodson, was an early proponent of incorporation and among those who served on the inaugural City Council. During her 14 years on Council, she served three times as Solana Beach Mayor. I was 16 on "independence day" in 1986 and turned 18 on June 5, 1988 -- which was her first re-election date and when she first became Mayor. So that was my first voting experience -- voting for my Mom!

Fun fact: the City's inaugural event was originally scheduled for **7 p.m.** on July 1, 1986, but those first Council members and our first Mayor, Margaret Schlesinger, learned that San Diego County would legally control Solana Beach until the swearing in and planned to issue unwanted building permits here throughout the day. So, your first batch of elected officials advanced the swearing-in ceremony by 12 hours to 7 a.m. to thwart the County's effort! In their first official act, Council officially and legally blocked the County from continuing to exercise "city planning through lax permit approvals." Their second? Approving a 45-day moratorium on new building permits.

Continued on next page

January meeting -- Join us on January 12, 5 p.m.

2026 Battle of the Bands for Fiesta del Sol at the Belly Up!

The Belly Up will stage its annual "Battle of the Bands" on **MONDAY, JANUARY 12, 2026** to prepare for the 2026 Fiesta del Sol. The music "playoffs" start at 6 p.m., but **we Historical Society members are invited to come at 5 p.m. for a special presentation on the history of the storied musical venue.** There will be an admission charge even if you don't stay for the band battle: \$12.00/person for an advance purchase; \$15 for "day of" tickets; and \$21 for reserved loft space. [Click here to choose your admittance and pay in advance.](#)

The Battle of Bands is a 40-year tradition sustained by the Solana Beach Chamber of Commerce, which proudly hosts the annual Fiesta del Sol. Attendance at the May fiesta has grown to more than 50,000 over the course of a weekend. This beloved event showcases a variety of merchants, food vendors and live entertainment, including performances on the renowned Main Stage. Over two days, the best bands in Southern California perform for thousands of attendees and a livestream audience, with many bands vying to be part of the coveted lineup. The annual "Battle of the Bands" competition offers five local bands the opportunity to compete for a spot on the Main Stage, where the winning band will perform for Fiesta's massive crowd.

Join us for the entire "battle" to lend your applause on the best in local music, or simply come at 5 p.m. for the historical overview of the Belly Up and take your leave when the volume heads toward "eleven."



Happy New Year, Happy 40th Birthday to the City of Solana Beach! cont.

Plans for the City's 40th anniversary celebrations are already in the works -- we'll keep you posted as they are announced. Meanwhile, we are planning something different for our January membership meeting -- an evening at the Belly Up! You can come early for a presentation on the history of the venue and stay to help select the bands that will play at Fiesta del Sol 2026. Please note that there is a ticket charge for this event, as explained on the prior page. I've already bought my tickets -- hope to see you there.

Thanks to all who joined another something different -- our 2025 Jingle & Mingle holiday party. I wasn't able to come that afternoon, but have heard great things about the gathering, which featured afternoon hors d'oeuvres and beverages at the lovely home of our Treasurer, Holly Smith Jones, rather than our usual, formal sit-down luncheon at the Lomas Santa Fe Country Club. ***Enjoy these photos from the December 4 gathering.*** Should we make the Mingle an ongoing holiday tradition? Please let us know your thoughts by mail to P.O. Box 405, Solana Beach, CA 92075 or email solanabeachhistory@gmail.com.

Reminder: Membership dues are due. If you haven't already, please renew your membership today. Thanks!

Jojo Dodson Bogard



More photos (by Mark Mennie) from our December 4 Jingle & Mingle Holiday Party



Our SeaWeeders again teamed with the Pollinator Friendly City Subcommittee of the Climate and Resiliency Commission and the City staff to plant a new garden at City Hall

After installing boulders and drip irrigation this summer, the plants (native Asters, Dudleya and Narrowleaf Milkweed, among others) were added on December 5. Thanks to Scientist.com for its financial support for the project, which



came in the form of matching funds during a SeaWeeders' Monarch Project fundraising drive. Thanks also to Jeremy Spath of Water's Path Landscape Design/Hidden Agave, Michele Buchanan and Heidi Dewar of the climate commission, Nicole Grucky and Diana Jamaledine of the City's Sustainable Management office, Luis Carrillo and his City Public Works team and SeaWeeder volunteers Cindi Clemons, Tracy Richmond, Jay Lipscomb and Bob Stamp.

January 2026 SBC&HS Calendar

Thursday, Jan. 8, 1 p.m. -- Craft Group 2026 Holiday Boutique Launch Meeting at La Colonia Community Center. All are welcome!

Monday, Jan. 12, 5 p.m. -- Learn the history of the Belly Up and help select bands for Fiesta del Sol at the Belly Up.

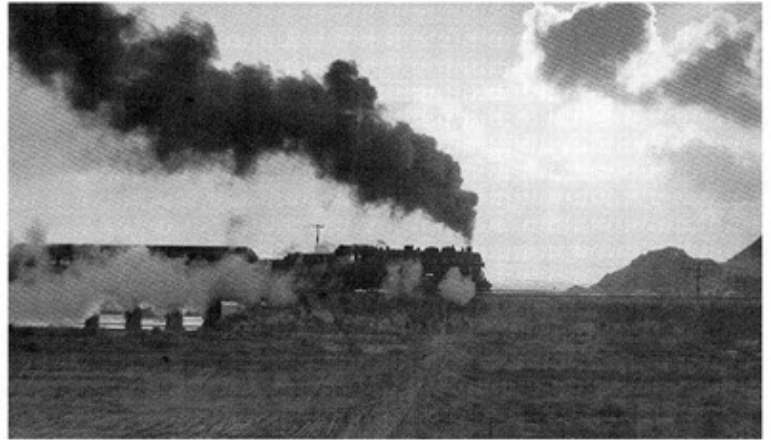
Annual Dues Are Due!

If you haven't already, please renew your Society membership for 2026!

Due to the rising costs of all we do, your Board has approved a \$5 dues increase for individual and family memberships for 2026. Annual membership payments are due in January and can be paid [online](#) or by check to P.O. Box 504, Solana Beach, CA 92075; please complete and include the form on page 5.

Trains to Tunnels

A Brief History of the Trains in Del Mar



Del Mar Historical Society President Larry Brooks will present the history of the railroad through Del Mar from 1880, when the train ran through Del Mar, to the time when it was moved to the bluffs, to now with the idea of tunnels under Del Mar.

Wednesday, January 7, 2026, 6:30 pm

Del Mar Town Hall

FREE for DMHS members

\$25 donation suggested for non-members

Please register at

DelMarHistoricalSociety.org

55+ SOLANA STRIDERS

Join Us for a Fun-Filled Walk, That takes place the 1st Monday of Each Month!

MONDAY JAN. 5TH

MEET US AT THE ANNIE'S CANYON TRAILHEAD ON SOLANA HILLS DRIVE, LOWER ENTRANCE (PAVED PATH), AT 8:30 AM!

Lace up your sneakers & grab your water bottle for a fun way to meet new friends, get your steps in, and take part in a guided walk from a San Elijo Lagoon Park Ranger.

CALL: 858-720-2454 OR EMAIL RECREATION PROGRAMS COORDINATOR, DYLAN ROSSI DROSSI@COSB.ORG

Solana Beach Civic & Historical Society a 501c (3) organization

2025-26 Executive Board

President.....Jolene Dodson Bogard
Vice President.....Michele Stribling
Treasurer.....Holly Smith Jones
Recording Secretary.....Lori Wolf
Corresponding Secretary.....Cindi Clemons

Committees

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Communications.....Robbie Harless, Karen Dorney
Crafts.....Kathryn Schmiedeberg, Stephanie Wilde
Heritage Museum Curator.....Vacant
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Membership Recruitment.....Vacant
Newsletter, Website.....Kathleen Drummond
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Scholarship Program.....Holly Smith Jones
SeaWeeders.....Kathleen Drummond



Since our founding in 1953, the **Solana Beach Civic & Historical Society** has thrived thanks to the generous donations and dedicated volunteerism of our members. Your annual dues provide the funds we need to fulfill our mission: To promote artistic and cultural advancement, support public education about our local history, and sustain the beauty of our unique community. [Click here](#) to learn about our 70+ years of service in our 70th Anniversary booklet. Among the Society's contributions:

- We commissioned Kevin Anderson's murals at the Solana Beach Post Office, dedicated in 2025
- The Living History Program for third graders at the Heritage Museum
- Annual scholarships for college-bound students — \$49,500 awarded since 2014, plus we contribute \$1,000 yearly to MAEGA scholarships
- Torrey Pines grove at the north end of the Coastal Rail Trail
- Landscaping of the Lomas Santa Fe median
- The War Memorial at the Plaza
- Video interviews with notable citizens on our YouTube channel
- Contributions for the Harbaugh Seaside Trails land acquisition
- Designation of Hwy 101 as a Scenic Route
- Crafts Workshops and our cherished annual Holiday Boutique
- \$10,000 donation to help build the La Colonia Skatepark
- SeaWeeders' landscaping and benches at our Post Office
- Boulder seating and native garden at the Fire Wall sculpture, Fire Station

Please renew today to continue your membership in 2026 — and invite a friend or neighbor to join us, too!

You can return this form or pay securely by PayPal or credit card [online](#). Questions? Email solanabeachhistoricalsociety@gmail.com.

Thank you for your support!

2026 Annual Membership Renewal

Name _____ Spouse / Partner _____

Address _____

Phone# _____ Email: _____

Please check if interested in joining . . .

- ☐ Board of Directors
- ☐ SeaWeeders Garden Club
- ☐ Crafts Group
- ☐ Other volunteer opportunities

Annual Dues (check your category):

- ☐ Individual \$ 30.00
- ☐ Family \$ 35.00
- ☐ Business \$100.00
- ☐ Lifetime \$500.00

Make your check payable to SBC&HS and mail to P.O. Box 504, Solana Beach, CA 92075