

# MY TOWN (/PACIFICA)

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## Pacific Coast Television honors outstanding community leaders in gala this Friday

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This Friday, Pacific Coast Television - Channel 26 honors outstanding members of the community as it has done for quite a few years. Because PCT now broadcasts in Half Moon Bay and provides coverage countywide, this year PCT is honoring one community leader from as far away as Pescadero and one local Pacifican whose work is based in Half Moon Bay.

Join the PCT board and volunteers for this year's festive gala featuring Ian Butler and the Humpbacks and for a program that will be inspirational as well as informative. The party begins at 7 p.m. in the Mildred Owen Concert Hall. Tickets are available at the door.

The honorees are Lynn Adams, president of the Pacifica Beach Coalition, Kerry Lobel, executive director of Puente, the community resource center for the south coast, Joe Gross, patriarch of Alma Heights Christian Academy, Dave Bertini, commander, Menlo Park Police Department and former captain of the Pacifica Police Department, Cheryl Sinclair, program director of Coastside Adult Day Health Center and Mike Romano, owner of a Farmers Insurance agency in Rockaway.

Kerry Lobel

Kerry Lobel reaches out across a wide and diverse community to assist people with core assistance needs, much like the Pacifica Resouce Center does, but with an added focus on education and youth employment.

Under her guidance, Puente offers a variety of educational programs to instill lifelong learning. Those classes offer everything from languages to citizenship, homework clubs for students and story time for youngsters.

Named executive director of Puente six years ago, Lobel directs the largest youth employment program on the coastside. Puente hires one third to one half of the students at Pescadero High School. That adds about 35 youth to the roster of 14 full and part time employees. When Lobel and her colleagues saw that local youth desperately needed a sense of belonging in the community, she teamed up with San Mateo County's Workforce Development to provide a leadership program for youth 14-21 years old. The program offers guidance about a wide range of topics from how to pick the correct fork at a formal dinner party, how to have a responsible social profile, from how to land internships and employment throughout the county. Every youth who completed the program has also gone to college. In many cases, these are the first in their families to attend college.

"They have also created a culture in our community around education. We have kids who are 9 years old who say they cannot wait to be 14 so they can work at Puente. That speaks to the connection that people feel at Puente," Lobel said.

Lobel also initiated two farmers markets in Pescadero. They have provided a way to buld the local economy and to connect farm workers, farmers and local residents with fresh and tasty produce.

For her achievements at Puente, the San Mateo County Board of Supervisors named Lobel a Woman of Distinction three years ago.

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Lynn Adams

Lynn Adams knows how to make volunteering fun.

Whether it's Earth Day or a town clean-up event, Lynn Adams, president of the Pacifica Beach Coalition, is inspirational while educating people about the environment. Besides the major clean-up days, the PBC leads weekly clean-ups and organizes clean-ups for groups who want to come to Pacifica. The group coordinates the California Coastal Commission Adopt a Beach Program and leads the Fog Fest Green Team every year.

This month, she led a group of 100 volunteers from a biotechnology company on a beach clean up, neighborhood litter removal and dune habitat preservation. PBC members model such a good example when they pick up litter, now other townspeople are getting into the habit. PBC members call the city's Public Works Dept. to tell them where badly littered areas are. Often, they clean those trouble spots themselves. PBC campaigned for a plastic bag and Styrofoam ban and for city garbage cans to be placed in strategic locations.

Adams is also the volunteer coordinator for the Pedro Point Headlands leading habitat restoration work days. In this position with the Pacifica Land Trust through a CA Coastal Conservancy grant, she's helped people remove non-native invasive plants from the headlands, create water bars to reduce erosion, plant native plants on slide areas, collect native seeds, grow the native plants and conduct any other stewardship activities that arise. The land trust introduced bird hikes and hosted two Charlie Brown Christmas Tree events to introduce the public to the restoration work and educate them about the native habitat before Monterey Pines were introduced to the headlands.

Adams is a volunteer master composter for San Mateo County. As a master composter, she helped educate and inspire people to reduce waste and turn food scraps into a valuable nutrient for gardens and lawns.

Earth Day and coastal cleanup events since 2005 have removed more than 110,000 pounds of trash, recyclables, and greenwaste from Pacifica and engaged more than 32,000 volunteers.

Adams has been recognized by other organizations her for her work. She won the Pacifica Chamber of Commerce --Environmental Excellence Award in 2008 and the Boy Scouts of America -- Discovery District Community Leadership Award in 2011.

"I've seen so many people, even school children, become environmental leaders after participating in a cleanup, restoration, or garden event. This is what the world needs right now and it needs a lot of it. May we all find the calling and take the time to help the environment and each other and to feel these connections in our lives," she said.

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