

LETTERS to the EDITOR

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THANK YOU

Editor,

Malibu residents and their friends honored Memorial Day last week by participating in a "packing party" for the troops, sponsored by Operation Interdependence.

Forty-six cheerful volunteers gathered together to pack snacks, toys, lotion, shampoo, pens and other items the soldiers love. Each package had an individual letter written by citizens of all ages.

More local Malibu schools wrote letters than ever before—wonderful messages and pictures that will warm their hearts.

We were able to prepare a record 1000 packages for our heroes, including special packages for many local members of the military service.

Thank you to Malibu for its generosity and for sending our soldiers a little taste of home. And thank you, to the Malibu Surfside News for the publicity that helped make it such a success.

Cindy Linke
OI Coordinator

COUNTY ACCOUNTABILITY

Editor,

On April 15, 2008 the Los Angeles County Treasurer and Tax collector sent out letters to Malibu homeowners regarding the "final refund of Malibu sewer project assessments." The assessment was to cover the cost of building a sewer in Malibu by L.A. County. Fortunately Malibu voted the sewer down (four times) and in order to permanently eliminate the mass sewerage and dumping onto our seashore we incorporated and became a city. The county extracted millions of dollars from homeowners in Malibu and was required to refund the money because the sewers were never built. The initial refund was to be done by January 1994 yet only a small fraction was refunded to the taxpayers with the promised balance to follow.

Now, almost 20 years after the initial taxes were paid, the county sent a letter out of the blue stating they will now pay the "final refund amounts plus interest" with no further explanation. L.A. County lists a fraction of the original amount to be refunded to each qualifying homeowner but does not provide any of the accounting to show how they arrived at the figure. We have a right to know and should assert our right. The county further intimidates the homeowners by requiring us to sign a notarized affidavit verifying eligibility and only allow for a 30-day window to return the affidavit in order to qualify.

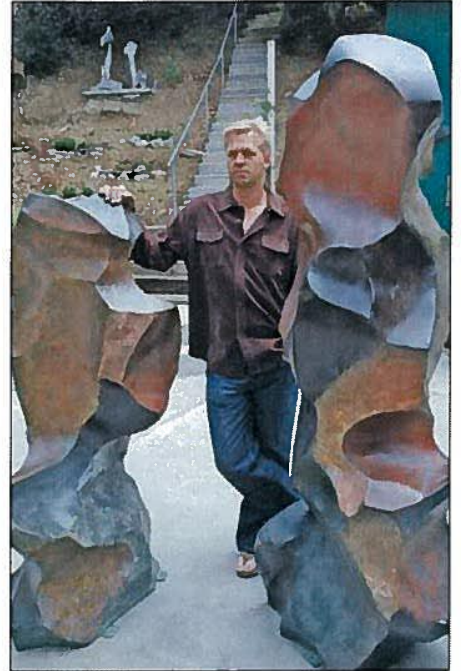
Despite numerous calls and e-mails over the past several weeks requesting the accounting and calculations as to how the county arrived at the refund amounts none has been sent. It is not reasonable to expect the homeowners to accept the pittance offered by the county after holding monies due us for a generation without full accounting. The amounts were calculated by a formula and not sharing this with Malibu citizens generates our further mistrust of the county.

Dan Hillman

Local Sculptor Unveils Latest Creation



UNVEILING—Local sculptor John Krawczyk hosted an unveiling of his latest creation, above, a stainless steel sculpture of a hockey player. The untitled work, which was commissioned by the New Jersey Devils, stands 24 feet high, is 12 feet wide and almost 30 feet long and it took eight months to build.



THE ARTIST—Above, Krawczyk stands between two of his other creations, "The Puddingstone Two," which are made of bronze. Also on display was "his menagerie," which included Shetland ponies, pot-belly pigs and donkeys.

MSN Photos/Frank Lamonee