



FRIENDS  
OF  
CHINA  
CAMP

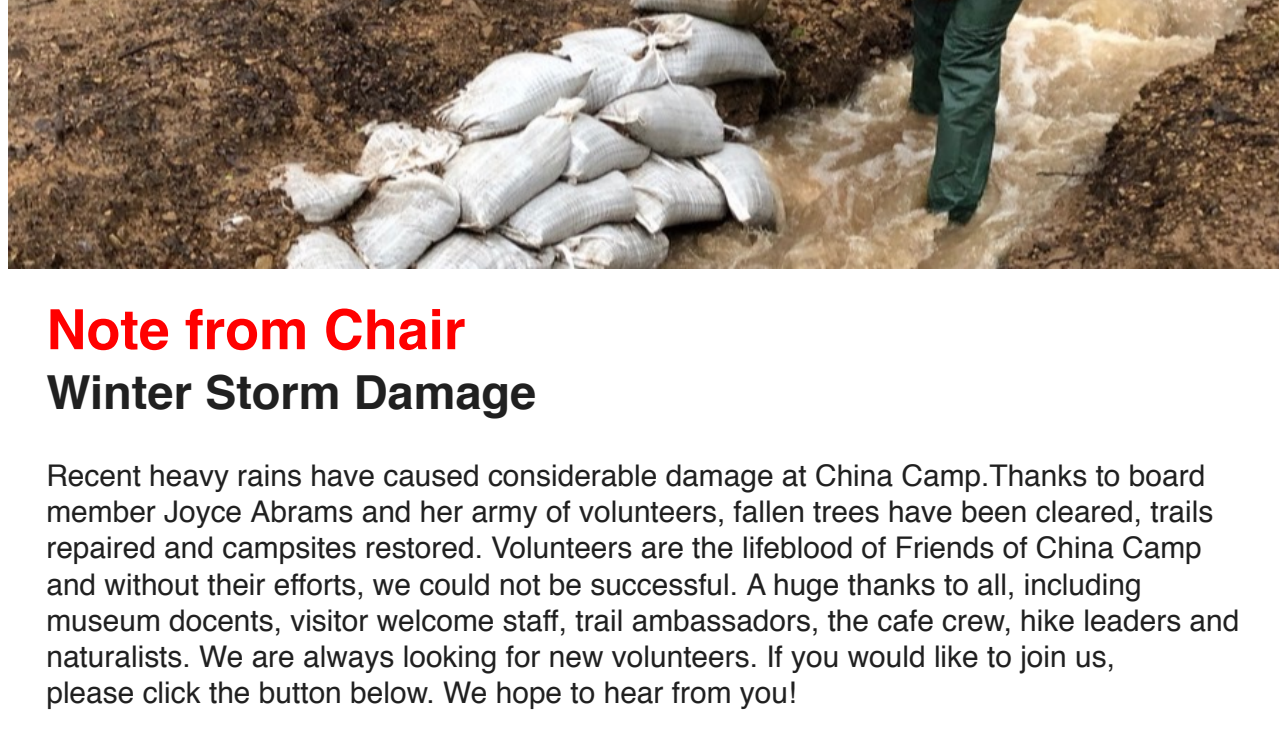
# Newsletter

Spring 2019

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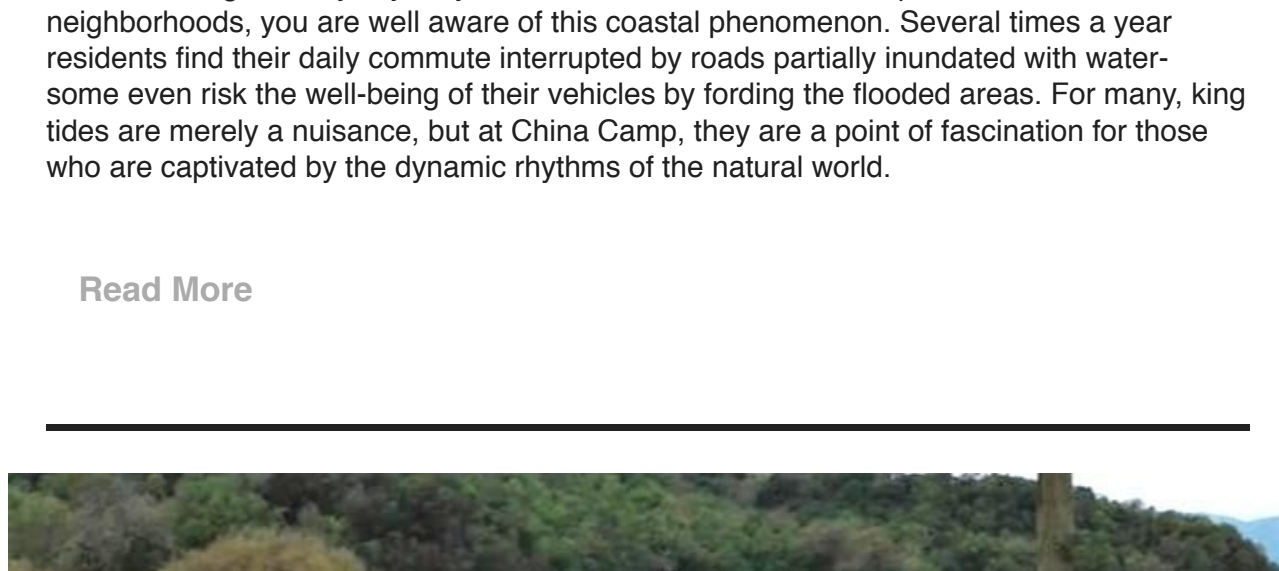


## Note from Chair Winter Storm Damage

Recent heavy rains have caused considerable damage at China Camp. Thanks to board member Joyce Abrams and her army of volunteers, fallen trees have been cleared, trails repaired and campsites restored. Volunteers are the lifeblood of Friends of China Camp and without their efforts, we could not be successful. A huge thanks to all, including museum docents, visitor welcome staff, trail ambassadors, the cafe crew, hike leaders and naturalists. We are always looking for new volunteers. If you would like to join us, please click the button below. We hope to hear from you!

Steve Deering, Board of Directors Chairman

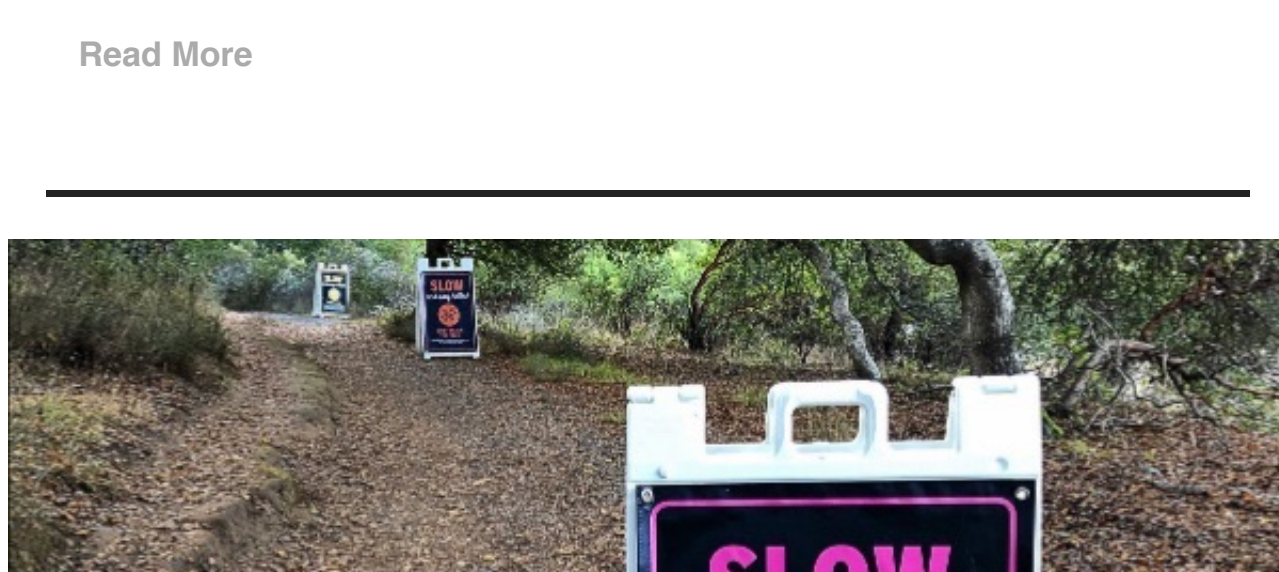
[Get Involved](#)



## King Tides A Reflection of the January 2019 NERR Hike

What is a King tide anyway? If you are a resident of Peacock Gap or Santa Venetia neighborhoods, you are well aware of this coastal phenomenon. Several times a year residents find their daily commute interrupted by roads partially inundated with water—some even risk the well-being of their vehicles by fording the flooded areas. For many, king tides are merely a nuisance, but at China Camp, they are a point of fascination for those who are captivated by the dynamic rhythms of the natural world.

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## Sea Level Rise Adapting the Road Through the Park

County Supervisor Damon Connolly has assembled a group of stakeholder agencies and neighborhood associations to devise strategies to address the flooding of low-lying sections of North San Pedro Road through China Camp State Park. These roads are inundated regularly at particularly high tides. This problem will get worse as sea level rises, and adaptation approaches are required.

The three adaptation goals are:

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## Do You Know Your Trail Etiquette? Take this trail quiz to find out.

1. When approaching other trail users, name at least two things you should do?
2. When you encounter a puddle the stretches across the trail, what should you do? Go around or through it?
3. When you approach a horse and rider on a trail, on which side should you pass?

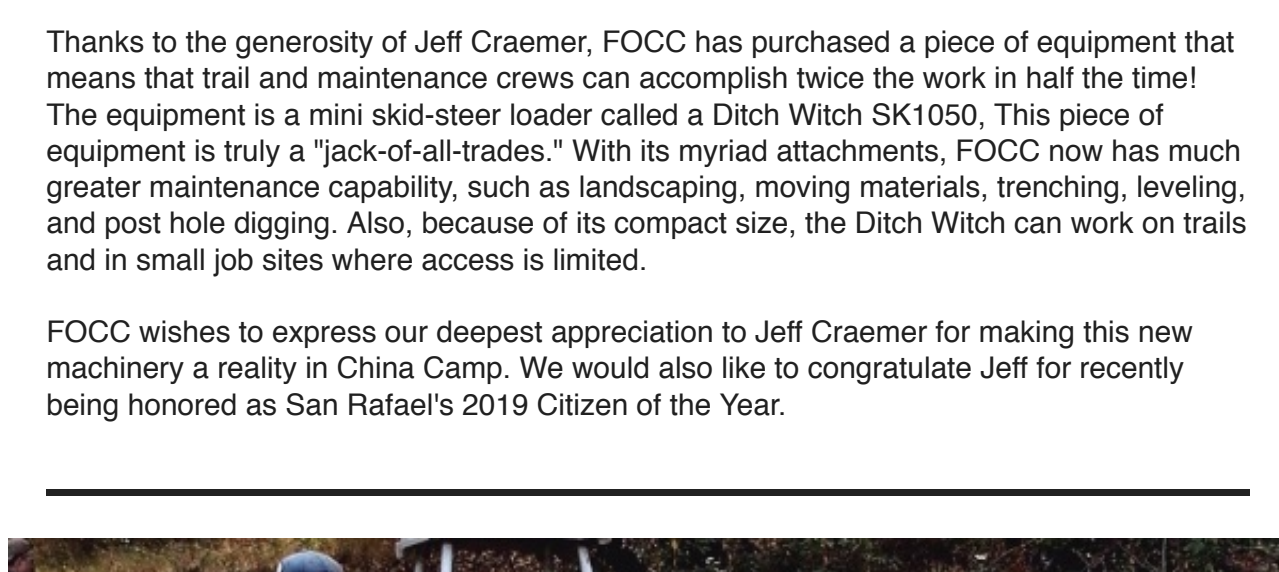
[More Questions and the Answers](#)



## Lyme Disease The Tiny Tick that "Shares" Its Bacteria

Graduate students from the Sweil Lab at San Francisco State University are investigating Lyme disease transmission and risk at China Camp State Park. Their work involves collecting ticks, small mammal tissue, and capturing images of larger animals within the park. By surveying the abundance of these animals and their disease status, they hope to better understand the dynamic relationships between the pathogen and the host community to predict the risk of Lyme disease.

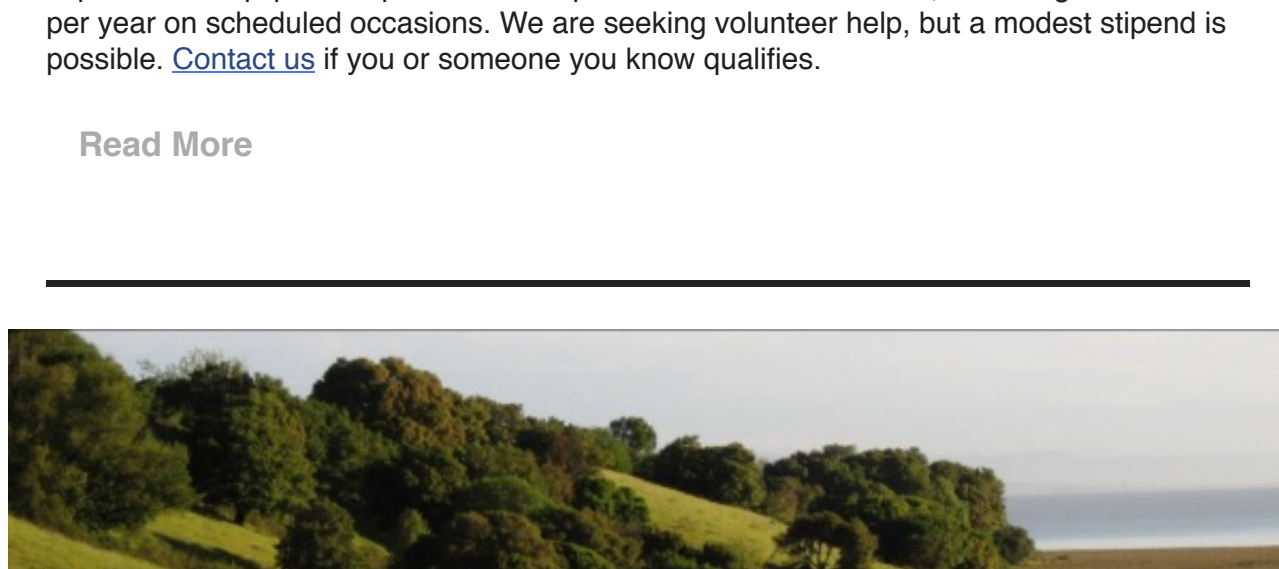
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## Six Years of Dedication: Thank you, Kevin! "I quickly learned that China Camp would take as much, or as little, as I had to give." ... "it's my park."

Kevin Smead is a volunteer who has been rolling up his sleeves for almost six years. Almost as long as FOCC has been around! Not only is Kevin willing to pick up any tool, steer any piece of equipment, and pound any post, but he is also always there when needed most. FOCC can't thank Kevin enough! What we can do however, is praise him profusely and share his story with you. In Kevin's own words:

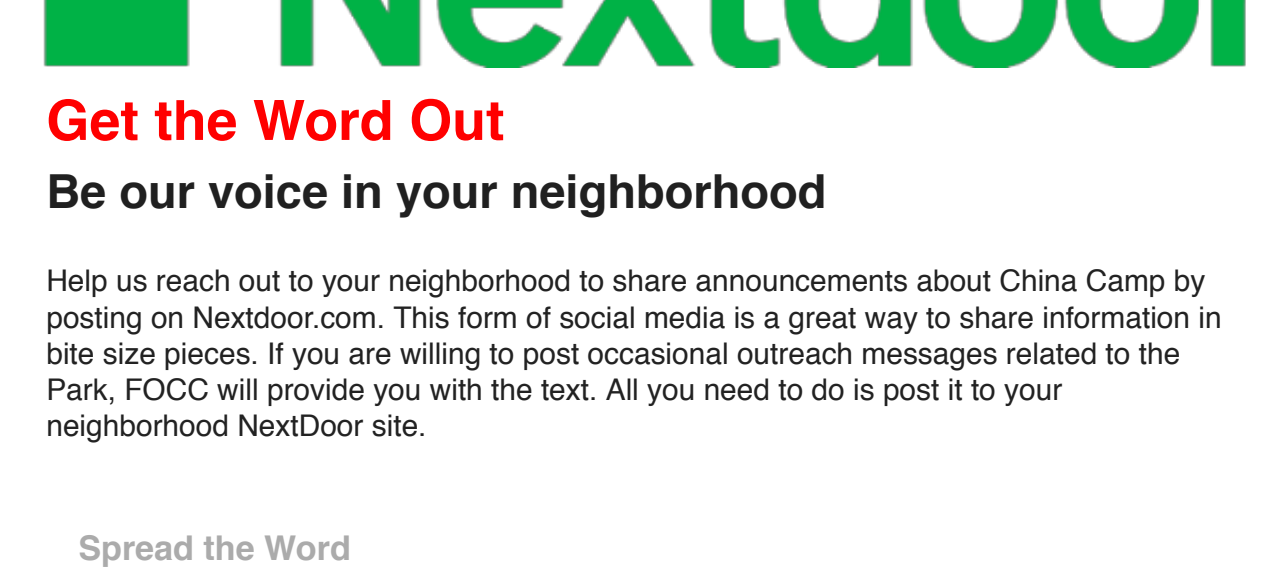
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## FOCC Buys a Ditch Witch Thanks to Donor Our trail repair and construction life has changed

Thanks to the generosity of Jeff Craemer, FOCC has purchased a piece of equipment that means that trail and maintenance crews can accomplish twice the work in half the time! The equipment is a mini skid-steer loader called a Ditch Witch SK1050. This piece of equipment is truly a "jack-of-all-trades." With its myriad attachments, FOCC now has much greater maintenance capability, such as landscaping, moving materials, trenching, leveling, and post hole digging. Also, because of its compact size, the Ditch Witch can work on trails and in small job sites where access is limited.

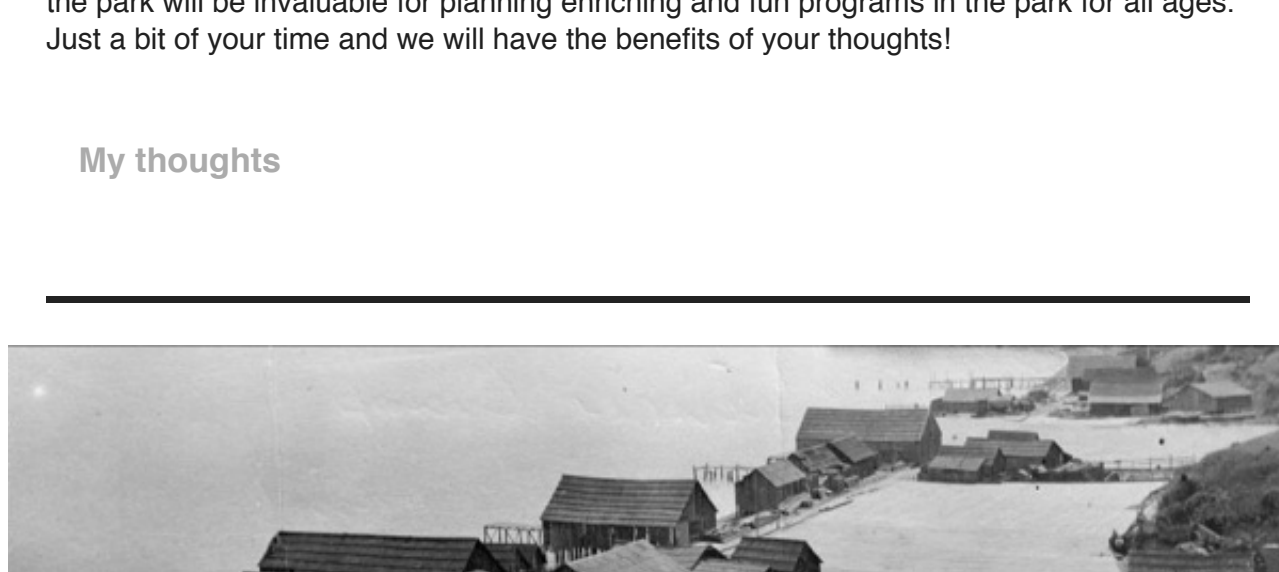
FOCC wishes to express our deepest appreciation to Jeff Craemer for making this new machinery a reality in China Camp. We would also like to congratulate Jeff for recently being honored as San Rafael's 2019 Citizen of the Year.



## Are you an Experienced Equipment Operator? We could use your help

Friends of China Camp has a very active volunteer maintenance team. We do everything from trail restoration to landslide repairs, painting to mowing, etc. We are looking for experienced equipment operators to help us with some of this work, occurring 5-6 times per year on scheduled occasions. We are seeking volunteer help, but a modest stipend is possible. [Contact us](#) if you or someone you know qualifies.

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## Help heal our the native habitat! Put on some gloves, get dirty, and start pulling

Did you know that just one invasive French Broom plant can produce up to 10,000 seeds in one season and if left unchecked, can take over a whole hillside in just several years? This is one of many exotic invasive plants that is displacing China Camp's native flora and impacting the Park's fauna. Our ecological restoration volunteers keep wild lands "wild" and native!

Interested in joining the ecological restoration crew?

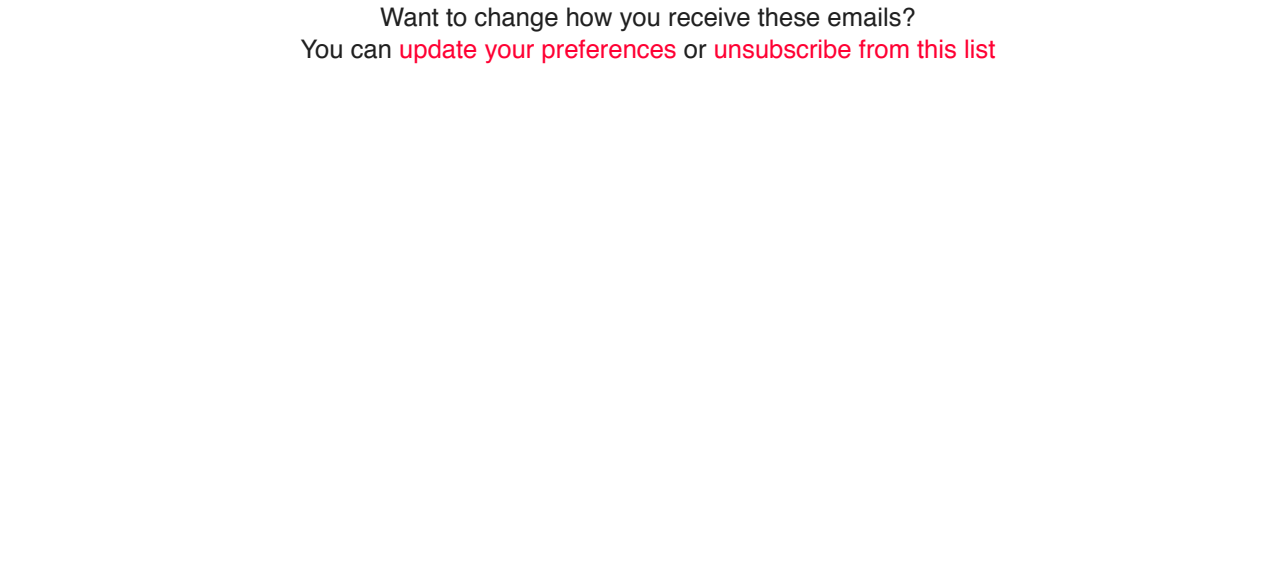
[I'm interested](#)



## Are there any programs you are waiting for? We Want to Hear from You

Please take a minute to complete our very brief survey. Your feedback about programs in the park will be invaluable for planning enriching and fun programs in the park for all ages. Just a bit of your time and we will have the benefits of your thoughts!

[My thoughts](#)



### UPCOMING EVENTS

**Introduction to Birding: Part 2**  
April 6, 8:00am - 10:00am

**Hiking Program: Back Ranch Meadows**  
April 7, 12:30pm - 2:30pm

**Earth Day Open House**  
April 13, 9:00am - 3:00pm

**Village Talk: Geology**  
April 20, 6:00pm - 7:00pm

**Easter Turtleback Hike for Kids**  
April 21, 10:00pm - noon

[SEE ALL UPCOMING EVENTS](#)



### HOW YOU CAN HELP

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Little Steps.  
Big Impact.

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