

Bartlett's News Briefs



NOT JUST ANYBODY

community-sponsored stories

by Pacifican Jean Bartlett, longtime Bay Area News Group writer

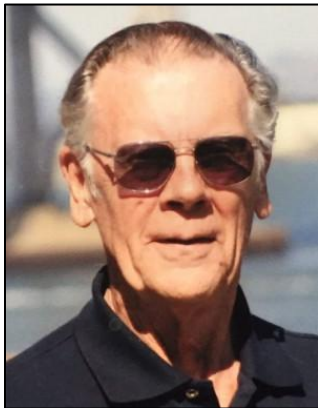
For 12 weeks in the New Year, five Pacificans, all veterans, answer a Question on the Street

When I wrote features for the printed *Pacifica Tribune*, for many years that also included a question on the street – *Bartlett's Bullets*. It's interesting to hear what our neighbors think. I've asked five people, all veterans and members of the Pacifica American Legion, to answer a question each week for 12 weeks. The purpose is not to stir up annoyed responses from people who are not part of this group, but to just have a listen to what someone else is willing to share. Food for thought!

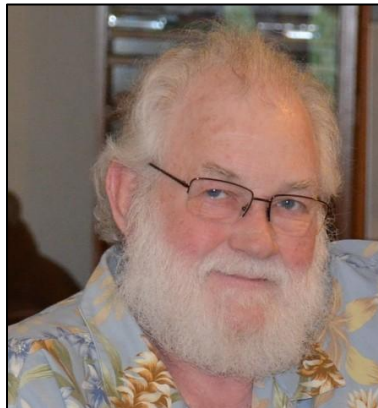
Date: *January 6, 2026*

Question 1: *What problem or problems would you really like to see the City of Pacifica take care of and any ideas on how they could do that?*

Answerers:



Robert Biby



Ed Clements



Jay Crawford



Allan Hale



Greg Stepanenko

Robert Biby. (Served: United States Marine Corps)

We don't have enough people on our City's maintenance staff. You can see this in a number of ways, but one example is keeping the roadside weeds down. Hiring a larger City maintenance staff would fix this, but I am sure the City of Pacifica does not have the money to do this and so the problem continues. A problem in Pacifica which is not caused by the City at all is we no longer have our printed *Pacifica Tribune*, and the smaller online version is not the same. I used to go to City Council meetings to fill in some of the blanks but haven't for the last year. I only very recently became aware that we are losing our City Manager Kevin Woodhouse to retirement. How to remedy this I don't know. One other suggestion I have is for the City to create a more accessible road out of Pacifica from Fassler up to the Discovery Site and then north, so that in case of a disaster, people in the south end of town will have a way out.

Ed Clements. (Served: United States Navy)

One thing that has bothered me about the City for a while – and I know we have a financial situation in this City and have had – is the City is not paying enough attention to one way we could earn more money. The City could take our old wastewater treatment plant in Sharp Park and develop it. There have been multiple hotel companies that have wanted to come in and build a hotel there. It would be a perfect thing to build there. It would generate money. Almost all the hotels in town right now are probably running close to 80 to 90 percent capacity constantly, and we, as a city, receive the hotel occupancy tax fees. What I would like to see happen is our City Council meet with our City Manager, and look at some of these proposals from these hotel companies and put one in there. The way has already been dug out through the wastewater treatment plant that used to be there. You could have underground parking, which would affect none of the parking on the streets which people complain about when it is talked about. You could build a four-story high hotel and that would generate a lot of revenue for the City and not cause any real problems. That is a project that I think is very easy to complete. I think people have been looking into doing it but let's get it done.

Jay Crawford. (Served: United States Army)

The problem that concerns me the most is emergency preparedness. We live on a fault line. A good portion of the city lives just a few blocks from the ocean and we have had tsunami warnings. We have an excess, it was estimated, of at least 10,000 trees in Pacifica that need to be weeded out. If we removed 10,000 trees, there still would be a bunch of trees left. We are subject to some pretty bad fires. We've been lucky. I was in Oakland when the 1989 Loma Prieta earthquake happened. We weren't prepared for it. Pacifica has a commission on emergency preparedness, but I still think that most people living in Pacifica don't think emergency preparedness through. It is entirely possible that with a major earthquake, we might not be able to get outside help for quite a bit of time. So, people should have a stockpile of food. They should have figured out if they have to leave the area, how are they going to get out? If you live in Manor, Sharp Park or Fairway Park, you have some pretty good options. If you live in Vallemar or south, all you have is the Coast Highway. When we had a tsunami warning a few months ago, the people who tried to leave all went down the Coast Highway at the same time. So, we need to impress upon people without making them paranoid, that they really need to think this through before the problem hits. Once they have a plan, they need to practice it with their kids. We have nursing homes and retirement homes here. If we say we are going to walk out, up the hills, the older people aren't going to be able to do it. We need to have plans in place for them. If we could just get a program going where the majority of the people living here think through what they are going to do in a major disaster or even an individual disaster, we will be a lot safer. CERT (Community Emergency Response Team) is a good start but the more we can take care of ourselves the safer we will be.

Allan Hale. (Served: United States Coast Guard)

I think the traffic on Highway 1, specifically in the area between Rockaway and Vallemar is a problem. The City should work with Caltrans to make a dedicated right turn lane when going northbound on Highway 1 between Rockaway and Vallemar.

Greg Stepanenko. (Served: United States Navy)

My observation in the neighborhoods is that contractors come in and they will dig up the street, and they replace the laterals or the sewage part that needs replacing, and when they are done they fill them back up and put asphalt over it and then they leave. But where they dug the street up, it starts to get lower than the grade of the street. To me, that is substandard. The problem, in my opinion, lies with the inspector who comes to inspect the job and gives it the okay. To me, when the work is substandard it creates a problem because you go down several streets and there are four or five places where it has been dug up on that block and it makes it bumpy and not good.

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By Jean Bartlett (January 6, 2026)

Writer Jean Bartlett was recognized by the Board of Supervisors, County of San Mateo, for "her writing that connects community and preserves local history." She can be contacted through her website, www.bartlettbiographies.com. This article was anonymously sponsored.