



# NEWSLETTER

FOR A BEAUTIFUL, CLEAN AND SAFE PLAYA GRANDE

**Asociación Playa Grande Sostenible is a non-profit organization founded to improve, protect and unite the Playa Grande Community.**

**Our mission** is to promote a balance between coastal development, human well-being and environmental conservation.

The initiatives we coordinate range from environmental education, to living responsibly within a National Park, to strategies that help keep our town safe.

Our board of directors, our administration department and our committees are made up of community members who, because of their love for Playa Grande, are dedicated to coordinating community efforts and demonstrating their sustainability.



Happy Holidays from APGS!

If you are not in the ❤️PlayaGrande community whatsapp chat and have property or live in PG, please email [info@playagrande.org](mailto:info@playagrande.org) to be added and stay informed.

This is what has happened through our organization since September.

# APGS EDUCATION

We hosted a lovely CR Independence Day festivity with horchata, Tamales, tanelas and a children's lantern parade and prizes. Thanks to the contributors of this year's activity:

Rip Jack  
Pots & Bowls  
You are Costa Rica  
Origami  
Taco Star  
Frijoles Locos  
Dr Belfort Moraga  
Essere Holistic Health  
Hotel las Tortugas  
Sol Sanctuary  
Mar Abajo



We much appreciate the ongoing support from:

CEPIA & the club teachers: David, Paul, Chelsea.

Keith Clower: Guanacaste Vacation Rentals for keeping the school yard clean & safe.

Hotel Las Tortugas

Sol Sanctuary

Montaña y Mar

Reserva Conchal: For the beautiful new mural painted and all of their volunteer work picking up trash from our roads and beaches.

To our anonymous school donors who's funds go towards repairing school infrastructure, paying for an extra teacher and for these much needed clubs: swim, music and conversational English.

And to the APGS Education Committee (Jodi Gallant, Bettina del Rio, Paola Ramirez, Stuart Sheldon and Tania Montenegro) for being dedicated and committed advocates towards the betterment of the school for the children.

As a Christmas cheer the committee and Soohie Menou made certain that every Playa Grande school student received a Christmas present from the Elf this week. Thanks to everyone who bought last minute Christmas gifts for the kids!



# APGS SECURITY

We raised the 67k needed to pay for the community patrolling service from September 2024 through February 2025. We will start fundraising for the next round late January. Even though we have had break-ins (especially in crime peak months: April & October), crime rate is still much more under control in regards to the incremental growth of our town and only 2 night time patrollers.

The committee has supported all of us with security newsletters and an informative security Town Hall that we hosted early November.

Please distribute accordingly to your families and visitors the security protocol and security tips we have shared in the ❤️Playa Grande community whatsapp chat.



# APGS SECURITY

## PLEASE KEEP IN MIND THAT:

- In CR it is most likely that criminals will not be put in jail for stealing. For this please practice prevention applying suggested safety tips below shared.
- The way we prevent crime through fundraising as a community is by having the presence of patrollers to make it uncomfortable for criminals to lurk around and have a more immediate assistance in case of an incident.
- 911 can attend calls in Spanish & English.
- Please file claims as they can bring more law enforcement support for security in a Playa Grande.
- Police Force in Brasilito can come pick you up and take you to their office to file a claim. Phone number: 2600-2086.
- APGS Security Committee is working on getting set up with OIJ to file claims online in PG.
- The committee is also working on a new community safety strategy that involves cameras monitored live and real time patroller response (ACTIVE vrs REACTIVE). Regarding theft- Getting caught in action is the only way to put a criminal behind bars. We will share more information in the near future.
- APGS is pressuring Coope Guanacaste to install more public lighting and to fix burnt bulbs.

## WE NEED YOUR COLLABORATION WITH:

**PROPERTY CLEANING:** We kindly ask empty lot owners to keep your lot clean. Keep the surroundings of the houses as clean as possible of both weeds, as well as grass; this to allow a better view for the patrolman and avoid the enabling of hiding spots for potential criminals.

**PROPERTY LIGHTING:** As far as possible, install lights with a motion sensor around the properties for a better view of the external part of the properties. (Please use downward- facing lights to avoid light pollution).

**SPECIFIC INFORMATION:** Inform the entire population in general that at the time of making a report of an incident (theft, assault, riots, loss of belongings) be clear in the place where the event occurred, as well as be clear in the characteristics of the person or people involved this is extremely important example: (color of clothing, shoes, physical features, tattoos, type and color of vehicle).

**MONITOR:** If it is possible that the different cameras are monitored in real time, this would be of great help to patrolmen.

**ALARM SYSTEM:** Urge different homeowners to install an alarm system.

**PREVENTION:** Make sure that both doors and windows as well as gates are properly closed when leaving your homes.

**GET TO KNOW YOUR NEIGHBOR:** Invite them into the community chats and to contribute with the cost of the community patrolling service.

**COMMUNICATE:** instruct all people in charge of taking care of the different houses, businesses, premises to report any suspicious person or vehicle as soon as possible via SoSafe, neighborhood chats or to the GRCOE patrollers emergency number: +506 8821-5775

## APGS ROAD SAFETY

This committee (Oscar Venegas, Fernando Ortuño, Anne Roberts, Sebastian Artiñano, Steven Molina and Leandro Fernandez) has spent a lot of time in meetings with politicians and public officials to establish allies who support this initiative. For the first stage we aim to build a sidewalk from the main beach access towards the PG school. If we are able to, we will continue to the ASADA and for following stages, all the way to The Store.

- The Municipality provided the right of way last week so that, with the support of the study from the engineering students of UCR, MOPT will proceed to draw out the design of the sidewalk (pre-project and budget) with the secretary of sectoral planning.

- With the preliminary project in hand we will proceed to raise, among us neighbors, the funds needed for the construction. The government will provide the machinery.

- Parallel to the above, Don Oscar Venegas is drafting the agreement (APGS-Muni-Mopt) to legalize the process.

The agreement would be a collaboration as such:

\*The PG community (APGS) collects the funds.

\*Municipality provides the permits.

\*MOPT executes preliminary project, design and construction.

\*CONAVI provides ongoing maintenance.



# APGS SOMOS PG FEST

What an extraordinary feeling this annual event fills us with. Even though we opted for a date and name change this year, the purpose of us gathering to share our families, food, music and energy with each other is exactly what makes our mission of bonding as a community a success. Thank you for collaborating and attending to show you care about the work we are doing to keep our PG beautiful, clean and safe.

It really takes a village to create this event without a penny and that is what it's about 🙏

## A HEARTFELT THANK YOU TO:

Set up crew: Jodi Gallant,  
Tim Roberts, Stuart Sheldon,  
Paola Retana, Anne  
Roberts, Erin Civello,  
Victoria Manes, Yeri  
Delgado with Butterfly Pool  
& Garden (Manuel & Frank).

Break down crew: Yeri,  
Fresia, Sharon, Tory, Jodi,  
Erin, Anne, Paola, Nadia.

Musicians: Andrei, Tim,  
Henry & Simon

Grande Vacation Rentals  
PG Tennis  
Onda  
Good Vibes  
Kenneth Guillen: Crea Films  
Ghislain & Marina  
Amy Coston  
Felix Roberts  
Pepe calendar  
El Manglar  
PG Surf Camp  
Cafe Mar AZul  
Cantarana  
Grateful Hotel  
Palm Beach Inn / Market  
Dr. Mora

El Huerto  
Rip Jack  
Matos  
Brad & Geneva  
Pots & Bowls  
Cantina 10  
Beach break  
Frijoles Locos  
La Caracola Experience  
CEPIA  
The Clean Wave  
PG Lifeguards  
Sostenibilidad en Grande  
ADE Ambiente  
The Leatherback Trust  
And the committee for so  
much dedication to produce  
SOMOS: Anne Robert,  
Victoria Manes, Jordan  
Schachter & Erin Civello.



# PG GREEN CURTAIN PROTECTION COLLABORATION (ADE Ambiente PG, APGS, SINAC & Sostenibilidad en Grande)

The green curtain is one of the phenotypes responsible for the scenic beauty of Playa Grande, characterizing its wide desolate and green coastline. It is of great ecological importance due to:

- It protects the dune as a nesting site for sea turtles.
- It is a biological corridor of coastal species such as birds, iguanas, crabs, among others.
- It reduces sonic and light pollution directed towards the beach.
- It mitigates erosion and the effects of climate change (high tides, strong winds).

This system of coastal vegetation is part of the Las Baulas Marine National Park, but it requires the control of everyone to protect it from potential deforestation due to forest fires and future development in seek of personalized beach access trails.

APGS is working with SINAC, ADE Ambiente de Playa Grande, Sostenibilidad en Grande and you to raise the necessary awareness to maintain a 2.5km firebreak delimiting the perimeter between private property and the National Park / protected area. The objective is to have this fire break be used as a pedestrian and bike shaded trail for its maintenance and provide signage to inform locals & visitors about the protected area and where the nearest beach access is located.

In support of the coastal reforestation and restoration plan of the ADE Ambiente de Playa Grande, SINAC, Mi Bosque and Costas Verdes we protect the "green curtain" with a firebreak that runs parallel to the beach along the 50-75 meter line between The Taco Star to Casa Verde, Palm Beach Estates (2.5km).

We concluded the first stage of the Green Curtain Project firebreak!

The SINAC topographer set all the points and we cleared about half. Next volunteering outreach will be to clear the second half of the fire break and start the signage installation.

We'll keep ya'll posted!

## A SPECIAL THANKS TO:

Victoria Manes

Keith Clower: Grande Vacation Rentals

Yeri Delgado: Butterfly pool & garden

Shawna Mullen: Señorita Casitas

Dawn Pinkham: Playa Grande Surf Camp

Deb Pinkham

Nadia Borysenko

Teresita

Cantarana

Padoka

Grande Salvaje

Forest Fire Brigades of Tamarindo & Cabo

Velas



## 1% COMMUNITY FUND

The main idea behind 1% is to minimize local donor fatigue by giving clients and visitors the opportunity to contribute through their purchase of goods and services. This fund is open to businesses abroad and can serve as a source of responsible marketing as well. It consists of adding a 1% "tax" to the market price of your product or service and transferring that amount to APGS for community initiatives.

Thanks to our valued members of 1% Community Fund for their support:

**Onda, Villas Kalei, Eduardo Pedraza Photography, Ojos del Mar, Señorita Casitas, La Caracola Experience and Eco Art.**

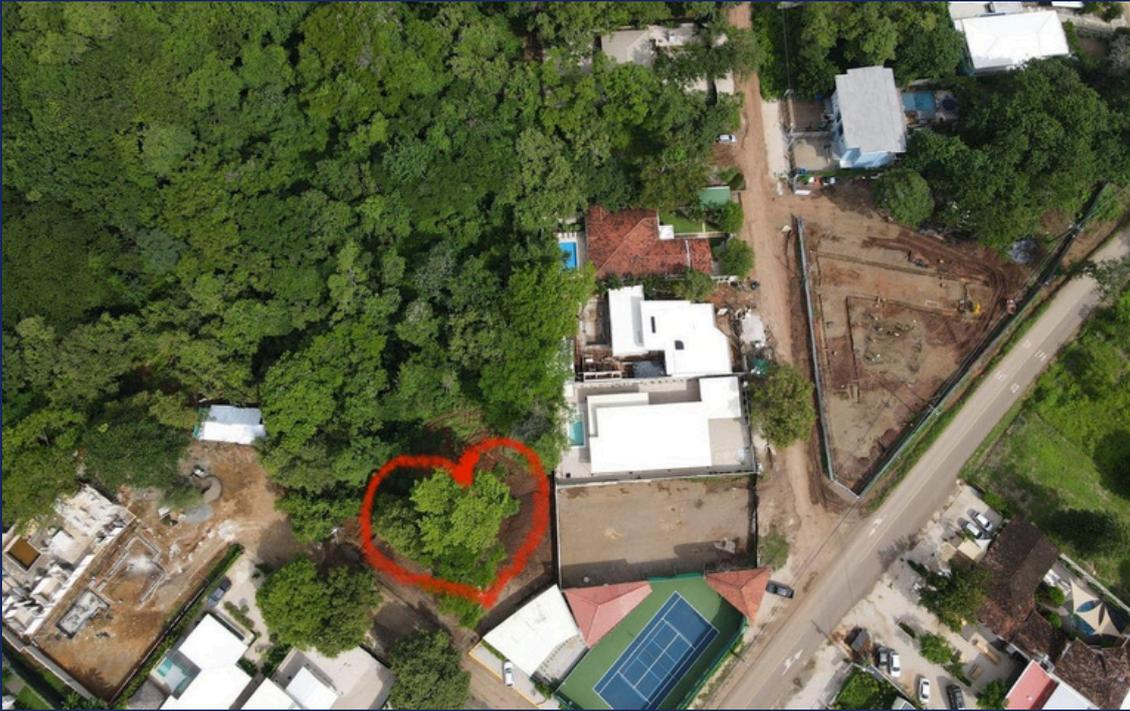
For more information email [info@playagrande.org](mailto:info@playagrande.org) or visit :

<https://www.playagrande.org/en/negocios>



# CHILDREN'S PARK

The committee had to fix a “leak in the boat” and since then have streamlined the process. Mathew Laskowski, Felipe Volio, Alex Bidorini and Federico de Mezerville are finalizing the project plan and should have the land completely set up to build in January. There will be another fundraiser soon. So keep your eyes open for that. We are grateful for your patience with this initiative and we assure you that it will pay off with an incredible project. We will be releasing the new renders very soon.



## THANK YOU COMMUNITY!

As a community we have all been a part of countless beach and road clean ups and filled multiple car loads of provisions for the families in shelters due to the floods in November. Thank you CatLina Figueres for bringing color to our content and Lisa Simpson for our website support and Oscar Venegas (Legal Vision) and Paola Retana (Legal She) for keeping us legally on track through all your volunteer support!

