

CARMEL PLAZA'S 2026

Summer Live Music

Dance & Dine | Drink

Friday Nights from 5 to 7pm
July 17 - July 31, 2026

Sip regional wines and savor appetizers from local restaurants while you enjoy two hours of free live music.

Food & drink package available for \$25 per person



Must be over 21 to consume alcohol.



JULY 17
THE MONEY BAND

Café Carmel & Platter Perfection |
 Scheid Family Wines + Mocktails by
 Links Club | Animal Friends Rescue
 Project and Peace of Mind Dog Rescue



JULY 24
EVERY DAY PEOPLE

Rio Grill | Blair Estate Wines | Meals on
 Wheels of the Monterey Peninsula and
 BirchBark Foundation



JULY 31
THE CHICANO ALL STARS

Alvarado Street Brewery & Bistro |
 El Vaquero Winery | Alliance on Aging

Tickets are available for purchase at the event.
 \$5 of every package sold will be donated to the featured
 local non-profit of the evening.

Carmel Plaza
 Downtown Carmel-by-the-Sea

Ocean Ave & Mission St | (831) 624-0138
 CarmelPlaza.com/happenings |   

Thank You to Our Local Sponsor



City administrator switches cities

By KELLY NIX

PACIFIC GROVE'S city manager announced this week he'll leave his post of roughly two years to be the administrator of Marina, where he previously served as assistant city manager.

Matt Mogensen began working for Pacific Grove in May 2024, succeeding interim city manager Robert Perrault, who was hired to fill the spot left by former city manager Ben Harvey when he resigned in July 2023 amid a "separation agreement" with the city. The Marina City Council on Tuesday voted to hire Mogensen, who will depart P.G. Aug. 21.

Mogensen told The Pine Cone this week that it was not an easy decision to return to Marina, considering his affection for Pacific Grove and his "great experience" working there.

"I definitely did not anticipate leaving on this timeline when I came to Pacific Grove," he said. "At this point in my career, Marina is a unique opportunity to return to my local government roots, with the work being more community development and community building."

Welcome back

Considering the costs associated with searching for and hiring a city manager, the P.G. City Council — when it hired Mogensen — hoped he would stay more than two years. The average tenure of city managers in California is about four and a half years, according to a 2025 report by Rose Institute of State and Local

Government.

Mogensen, who was assistant city manager of Marina from 2018 to 2024, will succeed Marina city manager Layne Long following his retirement after 13 years with the city.



Matt Mogensen

Marina Mayor Bruce Delgado appeared to be the first to share news of Mogensen's possible move to the city days before Tuesday's council decision to hire him.

"We are glad to have Matt back, more experienced than ever," Delgado said, adding that Mogensen's move back to Marina should be "smooth" since he and Long worked together.

"Matt is as hardworking, kind, gentle, and caring a person as you will ever meet," the mayor said.

"He knows Marina and our strengths, challenges and issues well."

Nice raise

Last year, Pacific Grove bumped up Mogensen's base salary to \$266,469. In Marina, he will be paid a base of \$301,900, plus a \$600 monthly auto allowance and more than six weeks of vacation, according to his agreement with the city.

In a press release Wednesday afternoon, P.G. deputy city manager Joyce Halabi said the city council would "consider next steps for launching a national recruitment" to identify a new city administrator.

"The council is committed to a smooth transition and will consider interim leadership arrangements to ensure continuity of city services during the recruitment process," the release by Halabi said.

Everybody reads The Pine Cone

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