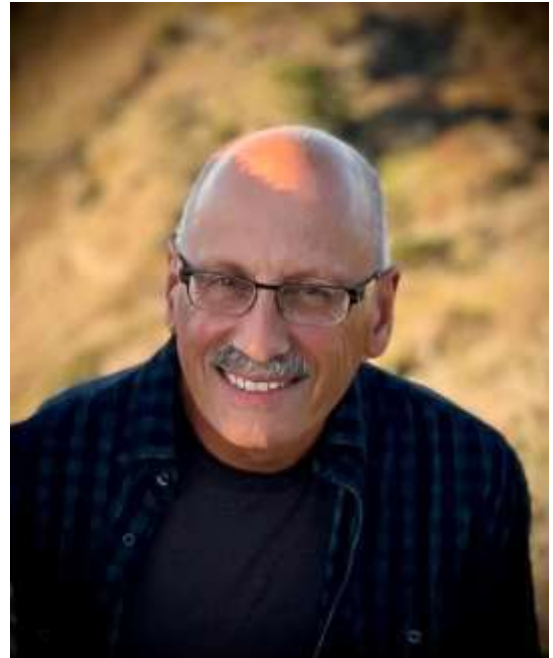


Meet the Treasurer of the Irish Beach Water District, Tom Ottoboni

I recently had the opportunity to sit down with Tom Ottoboni, Irish Beach Water District Treasurer, and talk about what brought him into the role. He and his family had been coming to the North Coast area for over 30 years when they started looking for a place to buy up here in the middle of the buyers' market of 2018. Shortly after touring the home they currently live in, they put in an offer and were delighted to have succeeded in achieving a long-standing dream.



Tom grew up in Daly City, where his father grew carnations for a living. Tom attended UC Berkeley, pursuing an education in chemistry, where he also met his wife, Sue. In the mid-80s, he and Sue moved to Belmont during a time when home prices were lower than elsewhere on the San Francisco Peninsula due to problems with the schools there. He started his career at a Clorox research site in Pleasanton. There, he worked for five years on various products, including cleaning supplies, paints, and salad dressing. Tom then transitioned to pharmaceuticals, developing therapeutics for preventing nausea after chemotherapy and an opioid-free treatment for postoperative pain. He liked this role because he felt that, with one good product, he could help millions of people. One product he developed was a reformulated drug that prevents chemotherapy nausea and vomiting. The existing drug had many side effects that doctors were ignoring, attributing them to the chemotherapy people were receiving. Tom reformulated it to eliminate those side effects. During the COVID pandemic, taking advantage of having a secluded ocean retreat, Tom and Sue moved here full time. Tom retired in 2024.

He looks back on his career as a lifetime of learning new things. I heard him say more than once during the interview that he would never let his own ignorance stand between him and accomplishing something good. He enjoyed the quiet isolation of working out difficult problems, and his face brightened whenever we discussed something he figured out or created.

I asked him about his role with the water district, and he expressed substantial optimism. Some of the challenges that have presented to the water district in the last few years look like they are resolving, and the district is moving in a positive direction. He appreciates that fresh minds and eyes and constructive, varied perspectives are part of what has led to an uptick in water district dynamics. He enjoys being part of that trend. He gets optimism from the deep pool of talent in this community.

Thanks, Tom, for making Irish Beach your home, and for supporting our community with your strengths.

Ken Weston