

SANDPIPER

"Cliffs" Project Raises Concerns

By Art Olson

Del Mar citizens are now becoming more actively involved in the fate of the 10th Street site, the former location of our last village gas station. The current owners and developers of the proposed Cliffs at Del Mar mixed-use office/retail condo project held an Open House on the



site on January 27. During the open house an estimated 200 people viewed the exhibits, chatted with the developers, their architects and agents, and with members of the city's ad hoc steering committee for the site. Judging by the activity at the open house, and the attendance at the steering committee meetings since that time, the project is now front and center in the minds of many in our community.

Citizen awareness is particularly important for this site and its development, since it falls under Proposition B, a City measure meant to promote Community Plan goals in the development of large projects within the commercial zone. The measure calls for voter approval of the project and its Specific Plan before any development can take place.

The Open House was arranged with four displays dealing with: proposed uses; architecture; traffic and community impact; and the requirements of Proposition B. The city committee had a separate table to enable visitors to speak with committee members and give them their direct reaction to the project. The developers put up several large blank pads, soliciting ideas for the public benefits that people would like to see for such a project, as required under Prop B. Discussion and opinions ranged widely. Photo-realistic images of the project showing its

It's hard to believe, but ten years ago this month, *the Sandpiper* was hatched.

For a photo-trip down memory lane, see page 3.



architectural design with planted green roofs generated significant reaction, both positive and negative, as did the traffic plan, and the mix of uses, weighted heavily towards offices (38 condo units) vs. four retail condos.

A major fall-out from the open house was a marked increase in the number of people attending the meetings of the Site Steering Committee, which are usually held on Tuesdays from 4 to 6 pm. Previous to the open house there were typically 2-5 members of the public present. The last two meetings saw that number increase to 20

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Important Meetings

The Gas Station Site Steering Committee will hold public meetings on Tuesdays throughout March: 4pm in the City Hall Annex.

The City Council will hold its annual **Goal-Setting** meeting on March 3. See Calendar on page 10.

Throughout the world, communities are confronted with the complex and frequently contentious decisions for keeping their lives stable yet evolving, and their environment safe and healthy yet economically viable for the present and for future generations. We are fortunate to live in a village that enjoys a predictably gorgeous climate, beautiful beaches, well-preserved parks and open space, and a quality of life that is widely admired. But the many who are keenly aware of the strenuous struggle and behind-the-scenes work that it takes to keep our town alive, dread the conflict that writhes through

the debates as we make decisions. So how can we minimize such conflict? How can we better understand differing points of view?

Here are some guidelines that form the basis for many theories on conflict resolution: We each need to be willing to investigate viewpoints different from our own; we need to seek out facts from a reputable information source; we need to understand the reasoning behind the issues, and then; we need to look at the pros and cons of each opinion (with the goal of getting as close to the truth as possible) before arriving at a conclusion. Accepting that your opinion could be in error may be the hardest part of all, but it is at that moment that truly great decisions are made.

Politics and Utility Costs

By Mark Whitehead

For two weeks political rhetoric has stymied unanimous city-council ratification of water and sewer rates. On February 5 the council concluded discussion of those rates begun on January 22, the delay to allow council members Abarbanel and Finnell, who missed the earlier meeting, to weigh in on a state-mandated rate-setting vote. All council members except Mayor Hilliard supported ratification of water and sewer rate increases that had been extensively reviewed and recommended by a citizen committee in 2004. Council member Finnell submitted his support by letter urging approval of the rates as "appropriate and necessary", as carefully audited, and as "meeting the fiduciary responsibility of the council and the health needs of the citizenry". Ratification of rates was necessitated by a recent Supreme Court ruling that allowed for the public to block the increases if a majority of property owners objected. The 485 protests received by the city were too few to

prevent council approval of the rates, but Hilliard, an attorney by profession, argued for not following the advice of the city attorney to approve the rates, instead siding with the protesters, many of whom were supporters of a recently defeated council candidate whom Hilliard also had favored.

At issue were city "administrative costs" and "reserves" built into water and sewer bills, since the much larger supply and treatment costs are uncontrollable, imposed on Del Mar by San Diego. At the hearing, on questioning by council members Abarbanel and Druker, staff explained that administrative costs account for only \$5 of each resident's monthly bill, yet they pay for city workers who, for example, manage billing, deal with blocked sewer lines and advise residents on irrigation conservation. Reserves pay for major infrastructure upgrades, "upgrades that have prevented sewer and water line breaks like those that have plagued San Diego," a city that has not invested in maintenance according to Abarbanel. The vast bulk of costs to Del Mar residents are pass-through costs from San Diego. According to consultant Karen Keese, San Diego treats our waste water, and "Del Mar is the farthest of any municipality from their facility. They also treat our drinking water and we are farthest from that treatment plant too."

Despite evidence that Del Mar's latitude for reducing bills is limited to a small fraction of costs, costs that pay for resident-serving services, Hilliard stated his belief that, in light of the minority protest, the city should "provide relief" to rate payers. He argued about the legality of including administrative expenses in the bills. The legal basis of including fees to meet requirements of the Federal Clean Water Act was also discussed by the council. They voted 4:1, Hilliard no, to moving toward seeking voter approval of the Clean Water charges that are currently assessed.

Mark Whitehead is a resident of Del Mar.



The **Sandpiper** is published by the Del Mar Community Alliance, a not-for-profit corporation. Its purpose is to advocate the Del Mar Community Plan, to foster informed public and government decision-making regarding issues affecting the community of the City of Del Mar, and to encourage a social and political climate favorable to the protection of the community character of the City of Del Mar and its environs.

Editors: Bud Emerson, Liz Dernetz, Wayne Dernetz, John Graybill, Lee Haydu, Carol Kerridge, Shirley King, Susan Miller, Art Olson, Betty Wheeler, Mark Whitehead

All staff members and writer are unpaid volunteers. This publication depends upon the contributions of readers like you. Make checks payable to **Sandpiper**, Box 2177, Del Mar, CA 92014

Some of Our Favorite Images from Ten Years of *the Sandpiper*



Revitalization in the Works

By Jen Grove

The Del Mar Village Association (DMVA) is hard at work on revitalization projects for downtown Del Mar. With over 90 dedicated volunteer committee members and help from City staff, downtown merchants, and commercial property owners, the DMVA is a dynamic positive force in Del Mar.

The Economic Restructuring Committee, chaired by Del Mar resident Jim Kennedy, is preparing a new survey of the downtown businesses to keep a finger on the pulse of our downtown. In addition, DMVA has just signed a contract with Community Land Use and Economics Group, a consulting firm specializing in downtown revitalization and retail development, to help craft an action plan for the Village's economic future. The project, starting around March 1st, will involve economic research and analysis of previous plans conducted for the city and the Village, culminating in an outline of specific actions for the next 3-5 years. While DMVA is leading the initiative, it will involve a broad range of public and private sector entities, from property owners to local government.

The Design Committee, chaired by Del Mar resident, Nancy Sanquist, is in full swing this year with a plethora of exciting new projects. Heritage Architecture & Planning is working with DMVA to develop a draft of the Main Street Improvement Program (MSIP) for Camino Del Mar. The Program will provide guidance and incentives to property owners and tenants, encouraging them to renovate and enhance their buildings. The draft MSIP will address exterior building features such as materials, paint colors, awnings, signage, lighting, and storefronts. Streetscape features such as sidewalks, outdoor dining, and planters will also be addressed. The draft document can be used as a planning tool at future community workshops and City planning sessions. The Program's objectives are to improve the appearance and walkability of Camino Del Mar, strengthening the unique character of Del Mar Village. In addition, the DMVA Design Committee is working with City on the entrance sign project, developing a public art program for downtown, reviewing plans for the old Gas Station property, reviewing the municipal code to identify revisions to aid downtown revitalization, and a series of other projects.

The Organization Committee, headed by Del Mar resident Judy Ducharme, is working on the DMVA Retreat this March, merchant education seminars, communication with residents, commercial property owners, and merchants through newsletters, media and the web. The Committee is also working on improving the Visitor Kiosk at the beach and developing a visitor center downtown, developing new downtown maps for the lifeguard towers and helping to create the Del Mar Community and Visitors Guide for 2007-8.



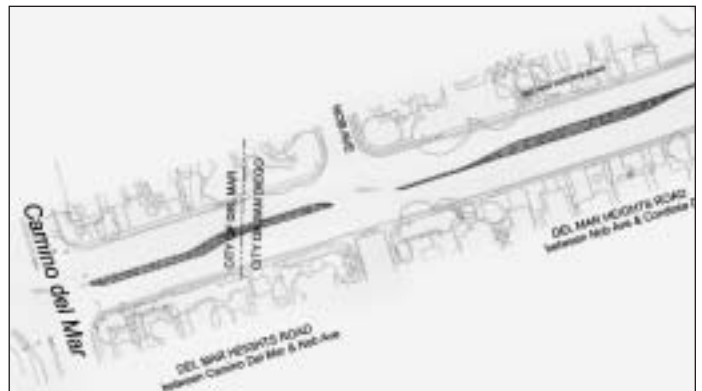
As always, our Promotion Committee is planning a year of fabulous events to promote our downtown, bring the community together for arts, culture and a great time. There is always something going on in Del Mar! This year DMVA Promotion Chair, resident Mary Lou Amen, has put together a full line up of activities, including Summer Solstice on June 21st at Powerhouse Park this year, a Surf Contest, Paddle Board Contest and Triathlon on August 18th and 19th, Taste of Del Mar and Art Stroll on October 6th, Halloween in the Village on October 29th and Holiday Wonderland on December 2nd along with a month of other holiday events in the Village. Stay tuned.

DMVA is always looking for volunteers to help with our programs and to enhance our Village. If you would like to volunteer or if you have an idea for downtown, please give us a call at 755-1179 or e-mail us at info@delmarmainstreet.com. For more information please visit delmarmainstreet.com.

Jen Grove is Executive Director of the DMVA.

The Greening of Del Mar Heights Road

By Jan McMillan



Plan of proposed median in Del Mar Heights Road

If luck and persistence will have it, Del Mar Heights Road may have a landscaped median in the near future. Proponents of such a median, based on a concept design by Adam Gevanthor, Diana Bergen and Bill Teague, are getting ready to take their design to the streets, so to speak. Look for a lively community outreach program to be launched in the next month or so. The design, the scope of the project and a proposed funding strategy will be publicized and presented at several locations in the Heights area.

Jan McMillan is a resident of Del Mar.

Can 60 Million French All Be Wrong?

By Wayne Dernetz

Last month, I came across a roundup of recent French public opinion polls on their nation's health services, educational systems, their work and lifestyles. Though they may be disgruntled about other things, compared to American attitudes the French appear quite positive about these aspects of their lives.

Among French parents 77 percent believe their school system works well and 61 percent are optimistic about the future of their schools. Contrast that to what most American parents think of our own public schools. Recently studies¹ show per pupil spending in the U.S. (constant 2004-05 dollars) has more than doubled since the 1970s. Student-teacher ratios have improved by more than 25 percent and the number of teachers holding advanced degrees has doubled. Yet, average test scores for our students have remained constant over the thirty-year period, well below those in other developed nations.

Among French high school students, 52 percent would prefer a career in public service; 34 percent would prefer private employment. In contrast, American students reject career opportunities in the public service. Fewer than a third of the graduates of our most esteemed graduate schools of public policy will seek careers in government.

A recent banking survey on French attitudes toward work found that a majority of French workers aspire to become independent artisans or craftsmen, among whom 70 percent report they are satisfied with their profession. French workers look upon work either as a means of self-development (51 percent) or as a means for the enjoyment of life (49 percent). Only among the French managerial class is work seen as the principal life purpose.

According to a recent Louis Harris poll, 83 percent of the French believe their health care system is the best in the world. The World Health Organization (WHO) agrees. Their 2000 survey found France's health care system to be the world's best in five categories.² The U.S. health care system ranked only 37th in the WHO survey.

Last month, the Kaiser Family Foundation reported spending on health care in the U.S. has now reached \$5,711 per capita.³ In France, per capita spending on health care is a mere \$3,048. The total spending on health care in the U.S. amounts to 15.2 percent of our gross domestic product (GDP), again way ahead of all other countries. The French spend a mere 10.4 percent of their GDP on health care.

I'm no expert in these things, yet I find it disturbing that we Americans spend so much on our education and health care systems and have so little to show for it. We can and should be doing much better.

Having studied modern French history and culture of late, I believe two factors may account for much of the French successes in these areas. The first of these is the French attitude toward work, as suggested by these opinion surveys. Most French have an overriding personal goal



in life – to maintain *équilibre*, a healthy balance between their work, family and social life.

The second factor, I believe, is also the central organizing principle of the modern French state and society known as *solidarité*. *Solidarité* is the recognition of interdependence among all individuals in French society, and the acceptance that each individual is entitled to have access to basic human needs, including quality education and decent health care.

These two principles, the one governing personal lifestyle and the other social responsibility, are fundamental to the modern French culture. Perhaps we Americans might also benefit from the application of these two principles, *équilibre* and *solidarité*, here at home.

Wayne Dernetz is a resident of Del Mar.

¹ The Atlantic, January/February 2007, "State of Education", p. 97.

² Source: The OECD Observer, No. 223, October, 2000, <http://www.oecdobserver.org/news/fullstory.php/aid/356>

³ In constant 2003 dollars. Source: Kaiser Family Foundation Survey, January, 2007. <http://www.kff.org/insurance/snapshot/chcm010307oth.cfm>.

Who Are We, Del Mar?

By Bud Emerson

This is the beginning of an occasional series of demographic facts about Del Mar, sometimes compared to other jurisdictions. All data will be sourced, usually by US Census or SANDAG (San Diego's regional planning agency).

2006 SANDAG	Del Mar	S D County
Total population	4524	3,066,820
Median Age (yrs)	46.6	34.3 yrs.
Median household income	\$84,884	\$50,710*
Total households		2178
Persons per household	2.13	
Household income		
above \$100,000	885	
above \$150,000	538	

* 1999 dollars

Negotiations Resume on Shores Site

By Crystal Crawford

For nearly two years, despite periodic negotiations, the City of Del Mar and the Del Mar Union School District have remained far apart in their respective views of the fair-market value of the 5.3-acre Shores Property at 9th and Stratford Court.



The most important factor in establishing the property's market value is the "public facilities" zoning, which determines the uses allowed on the property. Residential or commercial uses are not allowed in the very restricted "public facility" zone – only schools, libraries, or other government activities are allowed.

While longer-term residents may remember the Shores as the place where their children attended grade school in the 1960's, more recently the Shores property has become a popular place for residents of all ages to play baseball, shoot baskets, walk their dogs, and otherwise enjoy one

of the last remaining undeveloped park/open space areas on the coast for miles around. In addition to these recreational uses, the Shores property is home to the Winston School, which specializes in educating children with learning differences.

On September 27, 2005, the School District took official action designating the Shores Property as surplus to DMUSD's educational needs – provided that an alternative site can be acquired for the District's Administrative Offices, which are currently located on site. This action by the School District was followed by strong encouragement from the community for the City to acquire the property. Negotiations between the City and the District began, the City joining with the Winston School to fundraise and work towards acquisition of the Shores Property.

Acquisition of the property is a complicated matter, and negotiations were put on hold during the recent election cycle. The November election resulted in new members being elected to the School District Board and will require changes to the District's negotiating team. The City Council recently asked for formal meetings of the two negotiating teams to resume, and Carl Hilliard and I are looking forward to meeting, again, with the School District negotiators.

Meanwhile, the two lawsuits related to the School District's actions to "surplus" the Shores Property are winding their way through the courts, but a discussion of those matters would require far greater space than available here.

I remain hopeful that all parties will see that it is in everyone's interests to keep working towards a win-win solution. Stay tuned for more updates.

Crystal Crawford is a City of Del Mar Councilmember and member of the City's negotiating team.

A Gathering of the Minds

Sherryl L. Parks

Representatives from eight Del Mar non-profit organizations and Peter Glaser, keeper of the community calendar, met on January 20th at the request of City Councilwoman Crystal Crawford to help coordinate their community events. Crawford hoped the group would continue meeting regularly to discuss the major events planned by each organization. Ingrid Hoffmeister also suggested that by meeting regularly the various groups in town might find ways to share resources. As a result of the meeting it was determined that non-profits in Del Mar would meet three times a year, in May, September and January.

Among those attending Saturday's meeting were: Joe Hoefgen, City of Del Mar; Vava Anderson, Pat Freeman and Marion Perlman (Friends of the Library); Richard Earnest (Del Mar Village Association); Ingrid Hoffmeister, and Eve Goldman (Del Mar TV Foundation); Shirley King and Sarah Dubin-Vaughn (Del Mar Community Connections); Brad Allison (Historical Society); Joe Bruderer-Schwab (Del Mar Foundation); Lynn Gaylord (Friends of the Powerhouse and Historical Society); and Maria Gardiner (Del Mar Art Center).

"The non-profit organizations started meeting in January 2002, to talk about their activities and share information," said Councilmember Crystal Crawford. "When I learned there had been no meetings since 2004, I thought we should start off the New Year by getting everyone together. We had an excellent discussion, and I'm looking forward to our next meeting May 19th," she said.

Sherryl Parks is a resident of Del Mar.



Eve Goldman, Ingrid Hoffmeister, Crystal Crawford, and Richard Earnest planning the community calendar.

"A Signal That Reflects the Whole World"

The Keelings, Del Mar & Climate Change

By Betty Wheeler

Long before "Think globally, act locally" became an environmental mantra, Del Mar's Charles David Keeling (1928-2005) was the personification of that concept, resulting in a scientific legacy of highest global significance, and a local political legacy of community autonomy.

Keeling's very precise measurements of atmospheric carbon dioxide, beginning in 1957, resulted in the "Keeling Curve" data set, the foundation for today's understanding of global climate change. On the local level, he was a primary author of the City of Del Mar's Community Plan, giving Del Mar the tools to achieve greater control over its direction and governance.

Keeling's son, Del Mar native and San Diego resident Ralph Keeling, has made notable scientific contributions of his own as a scientist at Scripps Institute of Oceanography, demonstrating a decrease in atmospheric oxygen that, along with the increases in CO₂ demonstrated by his father, add to our understanding of climate change, and the role of oceans and land in absorbing CO₂.

Reflecting on his father's work, Ralph Keeling sees its duality: "I look at my father's work as a beautiful piece of science [as well as] a ringing alarm bell." Its beauty lies, in part, in its simplicity: the global rise in atmospheric carbon dioxide, once thought to be measurable only through massively complex mathematical calculations, can be determined by very precise, relatively simple measurements from certain "clean places" such as Mauna Loa and the South Pole. The result, as Ralph Keeling notes, is "a signal that reflects the whole world."

Today, scientific consensus identifies climate change as the most critical global environmental issue. For Del Mar in particular, this means facing not only the consequences of sea level rise, but also concerns relating to heat (warming), a likely increase in wildfire, and the impact on California's water supply from the loss of Sierra snow pack and earlier snow melt.

Ralph Keeling acknowledges a special urgency in working on problems of climate change. The existing gaps in our scientific knowledge relating to climate change give no comfort to Keeling: "Where uncertainties exist, they have the potential to make the problem worse, not better." He adds, "Greenhouse gases have already had major effects on our climate, and the next century and beyond will see changes that are almost unimaginable unless we get off the 'business as usual' track."

Keeling brushes aside the thinking that suggests the problem is so big we can't solve it, so why bother? That kind of thinking, according to Keeling, "says your children's and grandchildren's lives aren't worth much." He adds, "I harbor a foolish optimism that this country can turn a corner fast."



Dave Keeling, with sons Ralph (center) and Drew (left), enjoying the great outdoors in 1967

Turning the corner means significantly reducing our use of fossil fuels, and making climate change an issue at the ballot box so this challenge is met not only individually, but nationally and globally. "The only light at the end of the tunnel is weaning ourselves of fossil fuels – a huge challenge, but one that isn't impossible," says Keeling.

Individual action makes a difference: change your light bulbs and take other steps to make your home more energy efficient; drive less, and more fuel-efficiently (see <http://www.fightglobalwarming.com/> and <http://lowimpactliving.com/> for more information). Local action makes a difference, including following through on then-Mayor Jerry Finnell's 2005 action in signing the U.S. Mayors Climate Protection Agreement, committing Del

Mar to work to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. State action makes a difference; California has used its economic muscle in the past to lead on environmental issues, and can do so even more forcefully now. Congressional action makes a difference: will Congress act on the

scientific consensus, or will it adopt the course of denial represented by Rep. Dana Rohrabacher's recent suggestion that climate change is naturally cyclical, perhaps caused in the past by "dinosaur flatulence"?

Whatever you're already doing, individually and politically, ramp it up. Act as though time is of the essence, because it is. Be a foolish optimist that we can turn the corner fast, because the alternative is unacceptable. That's the best way to honor the legacy that Charles David Keeling left to Del Mar and the world.

Betty Wheeler is a resident of Del Mar.

"I harbor a foolish optimism that this country can turn a corner fast."

- Ralph Keeling

DON'T FORGET!

Del Mar Farmers' Market
Saturdays, 1-4 pm, City Hall Lower Lot

Where Planes Flew, Fish Will Swim

By Jacqueline Winterer



The purpose of the San Dieguito Lagoon Restoration is to recreate habitats within the San Dieguito Lagoon and yet do so within the constraints imposed by existing adjacent land uses. With five bridges over the river, 200 acres permanently lost to the Fairgrounds, and a neighborhood built on the flood plain just south of the river mouth, there is no way that this restoration can be a true re-creation of the old lagoon. These present conditions, which are here to stay, close the lagoon from time to time, owing to accumulations of beach sands at the river mouth and to an inadequate daily tidal prism

A 19th-century natural landscape where a river meandered lazily in a broad and very flat flood plain is being replaced by an engineered landscape where a river channel protected by levees flows toward the ocean. To revive the aquatic function of the lagoon and to energize the tidal exchange between the ocean and the lagoon/wetland, the inlet must be excavated and a deep basin at the location of the old Del Mar airport created.

The excavation of this deep sub-tidal basin has just started and is 25 % complete, with many more weeks of digging until it reaches its final 44-acre size (See W in

the photo). This large basin is a key element of the restoration as it creates the major hydraulic capacity that will provide the effective flow of the tidal prism. When completed, it will slope toward a depth of six feet below sea-level (NGVD) which explains why it is filled with water. Although not yet open toward the ocean, it does reach the water table and is a new feature in the valley.

A major modification of the landscape is thus taking place before we see the restoration of wetlands habitats, fresh water marshes and grasslands in the upper habitats.

Jacqueline Winterer is President of Friends of the San Dieguito River Valley.

If Disaster Strikes, Lend a Hand

The Del Mar/Solana Beach Fire Dept. is offering a free program to train residents in basic skills that are necessary in our community in the event of a major disaster if emergency services personnel are not immediately available or are overwhelmed.

This program, CERT (Community Emergency Response Team), teaches very effective and worthwhile first-responder training. Volunteers also offer an important potential workforce to service organizations in non-hazardous functions such as shelter support, crowd control and evacuation.

We have had 20 Del Mar residents and two Del Mar City staff members who have completed the training and have found it to be most worthwhile. Wouldn't it be great to have a CERT-trained person in every neighborhood?

The next training session begins April 10 at 6 pm. The training sessions are held on Tuesday evenings and Saturdays for one month.

Please contact Patrick O'Neil at the Del Mar Fire Dept.: 858 755-1522 or PONEil@delmar.ca.us

November 2006 Campaign Spending

By Chuck Newton

Candidate	Votes	\$ from others	\$ from candidate	Total \$
Crawford	1159	14,410	0	14,410
DeMarco	1013	5,827	22,127	27,954
Finnell	1201	14,171	200	14,371
Winn	261	600*	700*	1,300*
				58,305

* Winn had not filed his final campaign report as of the January 31, 2007 deadline. Numbers shown are from his October, 2006, report.

This was the first election in which the city's limit on individual campaign contributions was raised from \$50 to \$100.

DeMarco spent \$27.60 per vote, Crawford \$12.43, Finnell \$11.97 and Winn \$4.98. Comparing individual candidate spending in the last four council elections, DeMarco was second highest to Carl Hilliard's \$36,659 (in 2004), but similar to Hilliard's rate of \$27.28 per vote.

A political action committee, Citizens for Fiscal Responsibility supported Laura DeMarco; Robert A. Steller, Treasurer, reported \$1788 in contributions. A political action committee, Citizens for Fiscal Responsibility opposed Laura DeMarco; Brooke Eisenberg-Pike, Treasurer, reported \$2956 from 11 contributors.

This information was compiled from the final reports filed January 31, 2007 and obtained from City of Del Mar records with the gracious cooperation of City Clerk Mercedes Martin.

Chuck Newton is a resident of Del Mar.

Full House for Restaurant Parking

By Jan McMillan

Del Mar's town-meeting tradition proved to be alive and well this past month, when neighbors who live close to the downtown business district came together to speak their minds about a proposal to reduce restaurant parking requirements. On February 6, the Del Mar Planning Commission and the Traffic and Parking Advisory Committee (TPAC) held a joint workshop/public hearing on proposed Zone Code and Local Coastal Program amendments proposed to relax those requirements. The City would be the applicant. Richard Earnest and Jennifer Grove of the Del Mar Village Association, who worked with City staff to design the changes as part of a downtown revitalization strategy, presented the amendment, which follows:

1. A modification of the parking requirement for restaurants to reduce the standard from one space for each 90 square feet to one space for each 120 square feet;
2. A modification of the requirements such that the first 800 square feet of the outdoor area of a restaurant would not be calculated towards the overall required off-street parking for the establishment;
3. Creation of an in-lieu parking program to allow a portion of the required off-street parking for a project to be satisfied via payment of an in lieu fee. [The amount of the in-lieu fee is not recommended at this point but would be the subject of discussion by the Council and would in fact be set by a specific resolution.] The collected funds would be used exclusively for acquiring and creating public parking lots and for a shuttle system to transport patrons and employees from parking areas to the downtown; and
4. Creation of a new code section allowing the reduction in the amount of existing parking provided at an establishment when that reduction is the minimum necessary to install a required handicap accessible parking space(s).

All members of the audience who spoke—predominantly residents—either (1) opposed the amendment because

relaxing standards would potentially increase parking and traffic congestion problems that already exist in residential neighborhoods or (2) suggested other ways of improving the business climate and pedestrian orientation of the downtown area. Two business and commercial property owners, Ivan Gaylor and Bob Angelo, also made suggestions based on their own experiences in developing properties in Del Mar and elsewhere. (The ideas were intriguing but too long to list in this article.) Participants seemed to support some sort of credit for providing accessible parking spaces (Modification 4).

After several hours of listening and discussing, the Commission and TPAC concluded that relaxing parking requirements might indeed have a negative effect on residential neighborhoods and subsequently formed a new joint subcommittee to re-examine the amendment and explore other options.

The City advertised the workshop/hearing on its website and in local papers and mailed notices to property owners in the Central Commercial zone and within 300 feet of the zone. (Several speakers suggested 500 feet as more appropriate.) It was not televised, but the audio was recorded and minutes will be distributed to the Planning Commission and TPAC for review and approval. Parking, not the sexiest subject in the world, nevertheless drew a full audience to Channel 66 on a cold weekday night. All this suggests that matters closely affecting where people live will bring them out of their homes to protest changes they perceive as hurting, not helping, their neighborhoods. Hopefully, residents will stay engaged in this current debate long enough to work out alternatives that everyone can accept.

The meeting was part of a six-week public review period that began on January 26. Those who did not attend may send in written comments to:

City of Del Mar
Attention: Adam Birnbaum, Principal Planner
1050 Camino Del Mar
Del Mar, CA 92014

Jan McMillan is a former mayor of Del Mar. She spoke at the hearing as a member of the loyal opposition.

A Might Woodwind

At last month's First Thursdays, the San Diego Chamber Orchestra Woodwind Quintet performed for a full house at the Powerhouse following delicious wine, and appetizers catered by Waters Catering. Entitled "Dancing Around the Musical Masters" the evening included works by Malcolm Arnold, J.S. Bach, Darius Milhaud, Mozart, and Andrejs Jansons. First Thursdays is produced by the Cultural Arts Committee of the Del Mar Foundation.



Foundation to "Endow Del Mar"

The Del Mar Foundation will mark its 25th year of operation this year with plans to kick-off an "Endow Del Mar" campaign. Started in 1982, the Del Mar Foundation is a volunteer-run, nonprofit organization that serves the Del Mar community through its cultural programs and financial support to other organizations that serve the community.

Long known throughout the community as the sponsor of the Summer Twilight Concerts in Powerhouse Park, First Thursdays, and many other activities, the Del Mar Foundation will initiate the building of an endowment program that will provide longer term and permanent funds that can be used to support activities and projects that benefit the community.

Over the years monetary grants have been given to such organizations as the Del Mar Lifeguards, the Junior Lifeguard program, the Del Mar Library, the Powerhouse Community Center, Del Mar Community Connections, Keep Del Mar Clean, Del Mar TV, Del Mar Historical



Society, the Del Mar Elementary Schools, and many other worthwhile programs.

The Foundation intends to leverage its endowment efforts to help other nonprofit organizations to build endowments that support their respective missions.

An endowment allows a charitable gift to become permanent, and to create a gift that "keeps on giving," because the original gift is preserved and invested, and only a portion of the earnings is spent each year. This allows a donor to leave a legacy that can have a lasting and positive impact on the community. For more information on the endowment program, please contact Joe Bruderer-Schwab, President of the Del Mar Foundation, at joe@astepahead.com or (858) 792-5086.

This is an ambitious new initiative that the Del Mar Foundation will fund initially with resources from its reserve fund and an expanded fundraising effort. The Foundation intends to hire a part-time Executive Director to focus on the Endowment Program and provide the consistency and follow through to ensure its success. Interested persons should contact Lisa Lutz at careers@DelMarFoundation.org.

March Community Calendar

First Thursday: March 1, 6:30 pm Wine and Cheese, 7 pm program, Powerhouse Community Center; Talya Ferro, Singer-Actress: "Harlem Haunts My Mind", John Rodby, Accompanist.

Del Mar Goal Setting Session: March 3; 8:30 am-3:30 pm; open forum to provide critical public input for community goal-setting.

Children's Music Concert Series: Sunday March 4, 1-2 pm, Powerhouse; featuring local authors Gretchen and Adam Schomer, musician Steve Denyes and storyteller Andy Smith.

City Council Meetings: Mondays, March 5 and March 19, 6:00 pm, DMTV Station.

Gas Station Site Specific Plan Steering Committee: weekly on Tuesdays, 4:00 pm, City Hall Annex; your opportunity to voice suggestions, comments and concerns.

Cultural Arts Committee: Wednesday, March 7 from 8:30am, Powerhouse; open to the public.

Del Mar Library: Preschool Spanish and English Bilingual Storytime, Wednesday March 14, 10:30 am. Other workshops, including Make It and Take It, Henna, Youth Craft, Family Craft, and Books and Art are posted at the library and require sign-up.

Del Mar Planning Commission: Tuesday, March 13, 6 pm, DMTV Station.

DMCC Bus Trip to San Diego Museum of Art: March 27th, 9:15 am-1 pm.

Special Exhibit: Annie Liebovitz – A Photographer's Life 1990-2005

Del Mar Design Review Board: Wednesday, March 28, 6 pm, DMTV Station.

Please submit calendar items for the April edition of the Sandpiper to Liz Dernetz (ldernetz@pacbell.net) no later than Friday, March 16.

"Cliffs" Project

Continued from page 1

or more. Public discussion at these meetings has focused on the issues of use of the property in the interests of the community and its role in city revitalization, traffic and parking concerns, architectural appropriateness and the nature of the public benefits that the project will generate.

The main purpose of these meetings is to provide the developers with community input in the preparation of their Specific Plan, since it is this Plan that the voters will decide upon. Since Proposition B projects are so rare (this

is only the third), procedural matters also need to be set. At the February 12 meeting the committee dealt with the issue of Design Review Board timing, and proposed that the DRB review the plans prior to the public vote. While a design review permit cannot be granted at that time, it was felt that voters should have a clear vision of the design prior to the election itself. If the measure passes, the developers would be bound to the DRB-approved design, and the permits would then be issued. The process is, however, still in the early stages, and at this writing the Site Committee and the public await the first draft of the Specific Plan from the developers.

Art Olson is a member of the Gas Station Site Steering Committee.



Del Mar Community Connections: Neighbors Helping Neighbors to Create a Web of Safety, Service and Support

Aging with grace... Who doesn't want to? How can I look forward to doing it?

Del Mar seniors can find out more about this attractive idea by attending DMCC's "Coffee and Conversation" on Monday, March 12, at 10am at the home of Florence Stevens, 1956 Sea View, Del Mar. Our conversation will be with Veronika Glenn, Director of Education and Training for the Southern Caregiver Resource Center. This agency is one of eleven Caregiver Resource Center sites in the state of California established by the Department of Mental Health.

Veronika's background of more than two decades in the San Diego health-care community makes her an ideal resource for conversation on topics that can be puzzling or even threatening to think about. How will I know

when it's time to ask for help for my spouse, partner, or myself? Where can I look? Will I be able to afford it? What about my privacy? My sense of being in charge of my own life?

As director of a local Hospice program, and board member of the Center for Medical Ethics and Mediation, Veronika's work has given her many opportunities to consider and work through these concerns with seniors. Please accept this invitation to get information, maybe even before you need the answer: You'll be glad you did. A little rehearsal never hurts.

Call DMCC 792-7565 if you need a ride to the March 12 meeting. Car-pooling is encouraged.

DMCC Special Events

Tuesday, March 20: Celebrate Spring by traveling by DMCC bus to Target shopping plaza in Encinitas. Door to door service, beginning pick-up at 9:45 am. Call DMCC, 792-7565 for list of other stores in that plaza.

Tuesday, March 27: DMCC Bus Trip to San Diego Museum of Art, Balboa Park, 9:15 am to 1 pm. Depart from Del Mar City Hall parking lot. Suggested bus donation \$7.50; bring lunch and \$10 museum admission, and wear comfortable shoes. Featuring: Annie Leibovitz, a Photographer's Life 1990-2005 – an exhibition of 200 family photographs and portraits of public figures. This is the first West Coast and only Southern California venue for this internationally touring exhibition of photographs by a leading contemporary photographer. For the museum's description, visit <http://www.sdmart.org/exhibition-annie-leibovitz.html>. To join this group, call DMCC 792-7565.

DMCC Ongoing Events

Knit & Stitch new place, date & time: Tuesday, March 6 and 20, from 1:30 to 3:30 pm at 704 Kalamath Drive, Del Mar. Call Regina Horner, 755-1931 for more information. Free. Newcomers welcome.

Bridge and Mah Jongg Games: Wednesdays at Powerhouse Community Center. Mah Jongg players meet upstairs 10 am-2 pm; Bridge meets downstairs 11 am-2 pm. No partner necessary. Call 792-7565.

Singing Together Connection: Tuesday, March 13, 2007 at 1010 Crest Road, Del Mar from 3:30 to 5 pm. All voices are welcome. Parking available on Amphitheatre Drive. Call Regina Horner for information at 755-1931.

Senior Fitness Classes: Three classes offered: One-hour stretch and tone classes at Powerhouse Park Community Center at 8, 9 and 10 am

on Tuesdays and Thursdays; 10 am class is with chair. Fee \$15 for 10 weeks. Colleen Soto teacher. Classes filled through April 6.

Life Story Writing: Two classes offered: Thursday, 9-11:30 am or Friday, 9:30 am-12 pm for 10 weeks at St. Peter's Episcopal Church library, Del Mar. Fee \$10. M. Gittelsohn teacher, classes run February 5 to April 6. Call San Dieguito Adult School, (760) 753-7073, ext. 3418, or view <http://www.sdadulted.com/>.

Warm Water Aerobics Class for Del Mar Seniors (92014 zip code area): Mondays, 12 to 1 pm, at Noonan Family Swim School, Jimmy Durante Blvd. Fee: \$6/class or \$30 for 6 classes. Register in class if space allows. For more information call DMCC, 792-7565 or Eleanor Conlon, 792-8167.

Senior Legal Services: Friday, March 30, 11 am-3 pm. Attorney provides advanced healthcare directive, power of attorney, wills, and more. FREE for seniors 60 and older in the 92014 zip code area. Must call DMCC at 792-7565 for appointment.

Shuttle Bus Service: DMCC shuttle bus provides pick-up at Del Mar residents' homes and takes them to: Wednesdays – Henry's, March 14 & 28; Trader Joe's, March 7 & 21; Thursdays – Vons on Mango and Ralphs shopping center in DM Highlands. See www.dmcc.cc or call DMCC at 792-7565. Suggested donation for each trip: \$3. Call to arrange pick-up.

Rides to medical appointments: DMCC volunteers, using their own cars, drive City of Del Mar residents to medical appointments. Call 792-7565 a week in advance to reserve a ride. To become a volunteer driver, call Chris Engelbrecht at 792-6612.

Friends of the San Dieguito River Valley will use the DMCC bus on Saturday, March 24, to tour the San Dieguito Lagoon wetlands and restoration project. Free. Call 674-2275, ext. 14 to reserve.

Del Mar Community Connections administers Shared Housing and Rental Assistance Programs and is always looking for new home providers to provide affordable housing in Del Mar. If you are a Del Mar homeowner with an extra room or separate unit to exchange for rent &/or services, please fill out a Home Provider Application at <http://www.dmcc.cc/shared-homeprovider.shtml> or call DMCC, 792-7565 to learn more about the program.

Home seekers earning \$38,650/yr or less and looking for affordable

housing in Del Mar, may apply to be matched with a home provider in exchange for rent and/or services. Call 233-9105 for a recorded message listing current Shared Housing opportunities in Del Mar, or complete a Home Seeker Application at <http://www.dmcc.cc/shared-homeseecker.shtml>. Home seeker income limits apply; references are required, and background checks conducted.

Applicants for rental assistance may call the DMCC office (792-7565) for information on qualifications and to obtain an application.

Meet the Teen Typists

For a glimpse into the perspective of Del Mar youth, the Sandpiper has asked Torrey Pines High School students to share their views in a monthly column. TPHS Biology teacher and Del Mar resident, Isla Cordelae, requested volunteer student writers. For the initial column, which they named Teen Typists, we suggested that they each provide a summary of their backgrounds and issues that interest them locally and globally. Below are responses from two of our student writers, Fana Hagos and Risha Sinha. Readers are encouraged to provide the student writers with questions or suggested topics; please forward them to the Sandpiper, Box 2177, Del Mar, CA, 92014 or email them to Susan Miller at mailformiller@aol.com. Look for more on the local Del Mar youth perspective each month in this column!

Fana Hagos

My name is Fana H. I am fourteen years old and have lived in the Del Mar area for 12 years. Before that, I lived in Khartoum, Sudan, the city in which I was born. My family originates from the neighboring country of Eritrea, located on the east coast of Africa, bordering the Red Sea.

I am a Freshman at Torrey Pines High School. It is a wonderful school that offers several challenging courses. Of the classes I am now taking, although it is difficult to choose favorites, Biology, English 9H, and Health are among the ones I most enjoy

because they all have no real limit in how much you can learn. These subjects encourage creativity and critical thinking. My classes are demanding but also a lot of fun. When I am not busy with homework, I enjoy listening to music, writing poems, drawing pictures, and taking photographs of friends, family and outdoor scenery.

Pollution and its effects on the environment is an issue that interests me, and is facing us both locally and globally. I feel that youth is best educated by example so it would be more effective to promote awareness by contributing to a cleaner community. There are several clubs that support recycling that people of all ages can join. I would like to see everyone spend any amount of effort in recycling and not littering. I plan to attend college and soon become a photojournalist and maybe help spread this advice in a way that would make people want to listen.

Risha Sinha

My name is Risha S, and I am a 14-year old



The Teen Typists

freshman at Torrey Pines High School. I was born in San Diego, California. I have lived in the Del Mar area since the day I was born.

My favorite subjects in general are Science, Math, and a little bit of History, too. I like to play the piano and oboe and play any kinds of sports.

Some global issues that interest me are preventions to pollution such as alternative energy sources. A better way to educate the youth is to have them participate as much as

they can to help others realize what is happening in the world today, not just in reality shows. I would like to live to see a bright blue sky everywhere, not just in Hawaii.

My specific career goal is to become a doctor and by the end of high school be accepted into UC Berkeley or possibly Johns Hopkins. I want to go to UCSD to take medical courses, but it all depends on fate.

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