

SANDPIPER

Honoring the Community Planners

By Ann Dempsey and Louise Keeling



him. The Keeling family chose to recognize all the people who worked with Dave to devise the Community Plan, and so suggested this plaque. A small committee has worked to make it possible.

If you would like to join this effort to honor the community's 'constitution', please donate to help cover the expenses of this plaque. Some of the contributions will go to the Parks and Recreation Committee that allowed a site for this plaque in Seagrove Park. Donations can be mailed to: Community Plan Plaque, P.O. Box 3022, Del Mar 92014-6022.

Please visit the new plaque next time you're in the park.

Ann Dempsey and Louise Keeling are residents of Del Mar.

Del Mar History Week July 21-29

Puttin' on the Ritz, featuring Talya Ferro, July 21, Del Mar Hilton, 6-11pm, \$100 per person. Contact 794-0029.

Old-Fashioned Ice Cream Social, July 29, L'Auberge amphitheater, 2-4pm, free. Contact 204-2227.

A new plaque has been installed in Seagrove Park at the 15th Street entrance to commemorate the over 100 citizens who worked on the Community Plan for the City of Del Mar in 1974. Especially to be honored is Dave Keeling who with others led the various task forces to come up with guidelines that have served as a blueprint for our city.

Many of you remember that when Dave Keeling died two years ago, several suggestions were made to memorialize

Also In This Issue:



1979 Del Mar cliff collapse, "a direct result of sub-aerial erosion (groundwater sources inland of the sea cliff) and not wave erosion." (From *Sea Cliffs, Beaches, and Coastal Valleys of San Diego County* by Gerald Kuhn and Francis Shepard.) See page 3.



Cassidy McCombs, Haley Anderson, Zack Tsakiris, and Rachel Barrales in *The Wizard of Oz*, at the Del Mar Heights Elementary School. See page 10.



Del Mar and the hotel viewed from the pier, of which unfortunately little trace remains today. See page 8.

The Value of Institutional Memory

After a while, it's very easy to take the good things in life for granted. Let's face it, perfection is boring. The temptation to find fault, shake things up a little, even to switch focus onto problems elsewhere, can be overwhelming. But wrong.

Our city has been running smoothly and efficiently now for so many years that politicians who have run on a platform of opposition to the status quo are now unlamented road-kill. A community of educated voters are not about to jettison a city government that fulfills its obligations AND stays within budget.

But the passage of time may succeed where anti-government rabble-rousers have failed. The departure of both our city manager and her deputy (for different reasons that are unrelated to the performance of our city government) poses a problem over and above that of replacing two unusually talented and dedicated public servants. That problem can be given a name: Institutional memory.

When Lauraine Brekke-Esparza or Joe Hoefgen tackled an issue, they didn't just apply the rule book. They already knew the back-story, the community context. So, no surprise, their solution invariably worked – to our advantage.

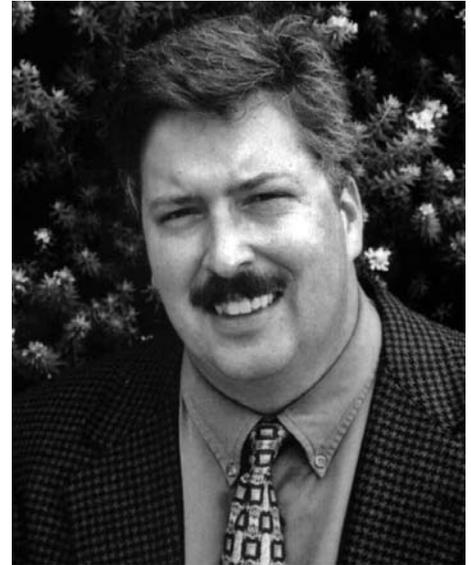
We therefore urge the city council, when pondering replacements for Lauraine and Joe, not to overlook the unique institutional memory, as well as the considerable abilities, of the present junior staff.

City Loses a Deft Administrator

By Mark Whitehead

Joe Hoefgen, Assistant City Manager, and Del Mar staffer for 15 years, left in June to become City Manager of Palos Verdes Estates, a city three times Del Mar's size near Los Angeles. Joe, a calm, steady administrator at city hall, will be missed by fellow staffers and the public alike for his deft handling of difficult situations. Joe was a major contributor to the recent, remarkable progress in utility undergrounding. He also has developed practical alternatives to address neighborhood traffic issues, most recently on Stratford and Crest Road. A great people-person, Joe's even-tempered personality and keen sense of humor enabled him to solve people-problems, whether resolving conflicts between residents and businesses, or assisting residents with the neighborhood challenges caused by utility undergrounding.

Joe was hired in 1992 as assistant to the then City Manager, Gloria Currey. Previously he worked in Encinitas and in the City of San Antonio, Texas, after graduating from the University of Kansas with a Masters in Public Administration. Joe is a skilled negotiator and



eventually took over the job of negotiating with the city's employee associations, eliminating the city's reliance on an outside labor negotiator. He wore many hats. Del Mar doesn't have a human resources department, and Joe skillfully took care of all employee issues.

Joe was at the helm during most of our City's emergencies. On September 11, 2001, when everyone – city employees included – went into shock, Joe was in charge at City Hall. Several years ago Joe dealt with the tragic death of a teenage girl, struck by a teenage driver at the Coast Road railroad crossing during a Thanksgiving family vacation. Over time, City Manager Lauraine Brekke-Esparza promoted Joe to Assistant City Manager/Public Safety Director. In this capacity he assumed oversight of the sheriff's contract, the fire department and community services. A master of many city functions, and a good friend to the public he served, Joe Hoefgen will be deeply missed.

Mark Whitehead is a former mayor 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

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The Downside of Basements

By Don Mosier

Basements are growing in Del Mar. The high cost of homes, the desire to add floor area that does not count against floor area ratio (FAR) restrictions, the popularity of subterranean activities (media/game rooms, wine storage, guest rooms), all converge to make basements more attractive. Some recently constructed basements exceed the first-floor footprint by extending under patios or decks, resulting in a doubling of living area. Most basements include several lightwells (as large as 4 x 20 ft.) that often extend into sideyard setbacks. Large basements, once rare in Del Mar, are becoming the norm.

Once constructed, basements are mainly invisible to the public, so what's the drawback? Let's consider two, one during construction, and one extending for many years afterward. Constructing a large basement is not simple. The excavation process often requires extensive shoring and removal of soil or sandstone far beyond the footprint of the finished basement. A 15 ft. or deeper excavation is needed to accommodate footings and plumbing lines. A photo of a current Del Mar project illustrates how much bigger the excavation pit is than the foundation footings, and also shows the pilings and shoring extending into the sideyard setback. Sinking these steel pilings is not a silent task, and the disturbance of the sandstone will remain after construction because these pilings are rarely removed. As the picture makes clear, a large basement requires a very large hole in the ground. This hole disturbs the neighbors during construction, and the natural topography forever, which brings us to the second problem.

Preserving Del Mar's unique sandstone formations (resulting from many years of natural erosion by rainfall) is part of the Community Plan. Most of Del Mar (except the beach colony) is built on bluffs consisting of several



Excavation for a house under construction on Ocean Avenue. The depth of the excavation is approximately 20 feet. Note pilings and shoring near neighboring property at the left (south) of picture. Picture courtesy of Art Olson.

sedimentary geologic layers over 48 million years old. The bottom Del Mar formation consists of softer, grayish Eocene rock, and above it is the harder yellow Torrey Sandstone. This geology and the rising groundwater table in Del Mar (caused by excessive watering and more non-native vegetation) leads to erosion problems because the groundwater percolates down through fractures in the Torrey sandstone cap to the softer sedimentary layers, which it erodes as it flows towards the ocean. The 1979 bluff slide (see page 1) resulted from this process. The deep excavations needed for large basements and the holes left from steel pilings can only make this problem worse. The resulting erosion may well get the train tracks off the bluff (in dramatic fashion) but there must be better ways of achieving that goal.

Don Mosier is a member of the Design Review Board.

Crest Road Update

By Harold Feder

On May 21, the City Council considered the progress of the effort to make Crest Road safe. The hearing included a presentation of the findings of the traffic studies to date and input from the community regarding the effectiveness of the efforts so far and how best to proceed.

For the most part, the traffic studies showed improvement of both vehicle speed and volume since the traffic-calming measures were initiated. The results were varied as to the degree of effectiveness depending upon the day, hour and location tested. In addition to the reduced vehicular speed and volume, the studies

demonstrated that this improvement was achieved without increasing the volume of traffic on the adjoining streets.

The resident feedback was mainly positive. The main objection posed involved the specific location of two of the chicanes. There was also a discussion about trying to reduce the signage and improve aesthetics.

The Council determined that the traffic studies should continue through both the fair and race season. Also, the Council requested that the residents involved in this effort meet with the City's representatives to begin the process of designing permanent traffic calming measures that are both effective and aesthetically appropriate for the community.

Harold Feder is a resident of Del Mar.

Interview with Steven McDowell

Del Mar resident and member, Del Mar Union School District Board of Trustees

By Susan Miller

Steven McDowell, elected to the DMUSD Board of Trustees last November, ran on a platform with Annette Easton and Katherine White, urging greater accountability and transparency from Board trustees and staff. Since then, Steven and his fellow trustees have been involved in many important and hotly debated issues facing the Del Mar schools, including the Shores property, the issues facing the Del Mar Education Foundation, and funding for each school's enrichment teachers. Here is the result of a partial interview with Steven. We hope to share more of his views in future editions of the Sandpiper.

Tell us about yourself and your family –

My wife, Jennifer, and I grew up in San Diego County. We always thought Del Mar would be a good place to live, and it became possible in 2001. Our kids just finished third, sixth, and eighth grade, with the younger two attending Del Mar Heights Elementary and the oldest at Earl Warren Middle School. In addition to my involvement with the school board, I am also on the Little League Board and on the Del Mar City Traffic and Parking Advisory Committee.

What attracted you to the DMUSD Board of Trustees position?

Jennifer had been attending school board meetings over the last couple of years. She and some other parents asked me last March to get involved due to my involvement in Little League, which uses the Shores, and my involvement at the Heights in the PTA. After attending some of the meetings and trying to add my voice to the concerns expressed, I felt I could make a difference.

What are your top three goals/priorities for the Board during your term?

- 1) Increase the accessibility of the school board to the community and incorporate their views, especially those that give the kids a more enjoyable experience.
- 2) Have better-prepared kids for the next step in their education, by expanding our relationship with the high-school district. Continually look for successful programs within the district that can be duplicated at all of the schools.
- 3) Provide parents more flexibility in picking what they see as the best school choice for their kids.

What are the top three challenges currently facing the Board?

1) Making sure Ocean Air School (a new Del Mar Union School District school in the Torrey Hills area serving K-8 grades) will open on time in August. At this time, it appears it will.

2) Additional flexibility sometimes comes with additional cost. Trying to determine where the tradeoff needs to be in size of schools, size of classes.

3) Arriving at an outcome on the Shores site that also addresses the impact to the administrative staff and childcare center at the location.

What do you envision will be the Board's greatest challenges in the future; for example, 5-10 years from now?

- Managing the budget within the CA State fiscal process.
- Assessment of services with population changes.
- Encouraging academic excellence.

Susan Miller is a resident of Del Mar.



From Beethoven to Britten

A beautiful sunset, good wine, friends, and fabulous classical music all came together for the season finale of First Thursdays at the Powerhouse. Ann Marie Gabriele (oboe), Trevor Handy (cello), Sarah Thornblade (violin), Samuel Formicola (viola) and Jonathan Mack (tenor) dazzled the audience with their classical pieces from Beethoven to Britten. First Thursdays is put on by volunteers from the Cultural Arts Committee of the Del Mar Foundation. For more information, log onto www.delmarfoundation.org or call 858-635-1363.



A Fair Price for Life in Paradise

By Bettina Experton

Summer has arrived and with it we are looking for sunny days at the beach, barbeque in the park, outdoor dining with friends and simply enjoying the beauty of our backyards in full, colorful bloom.

July is also the beginning of a new fiscal year for the City. This is the time for all of us to reflect on the cost to live in and sustain our precious coastal town which also welcomes more than two million beach visitors every year.

Indeed, no less than 40% of the City's operating budget is directed at safeguarding our community's precious natural assets. With a total budget of \$4.7 million*, public safety represents the largest portion of the City's budget. The projected cost of servicing our beaches and parks alone: \$2.2 million. The main source of revenue to offset this cost - parking (with meter fees and fines) - brings the City approximately \$1 million in revenue or less than 50% of the cost to provide full lifeguard services, beach and park maintenance, etc. Parking fees from out-of-town beach-goers provide therefore minimum revenue in return. To correct this imbalance and unfair burden to its residents, the City is now considering expanding its paid parking, as most coastal cities have done or are now contemplating.

The other main public-safety expense incurred by the City is to safeguard our properties with the provision of fire-protection services. With a very dry summer in the forecast, fire services are more than ever required on a 24/7 schedule. With three daily shifts of three firemen per shift, the Del Mar Fire Department is staffed with the minimum required capacity of nine full-time firefighters

and managed under a shared contract with the City of Solana Beach for a total budget of \$1.8 million.

As our Mayor recently warned all of us of the high and increasing cost of federal and state mandates (clean water and others) imposed on the City, the survival of our community essentially remains in our hands with, foremost, the revitalization of its downtown. Indeed, of great concern is the continuous flattening of sales taxes (\$1.6 million) which represents one of the top three sources of revenue for the City's \$10.6 million General Fund. Further decline of sales taxes will pose a serious threat to the community and requires forceful public and private action.

The City Council has been setting the ground for sustaining and further developing downtown retail, from the office moratorium put in place in March to the new overlay zone now being drafted. Next on the map, the development of the old Gas Station site followed by the City Hall property can both significantly increase the City's retail base while providing the community and its visitors with a more-vibrant southern entrance to the town.

With possibilities ranging from additional paid parking to guided new mixed-use development, we are striving to insure our future. Partnering with the DMVA, the City Council is also seizing opportunities, such as the upcoming 2008 US Open, in investing in promotional activities to best showcase our town. Let's all support these joined community efforts, and earn the right to live in paradise!

* The source of all \$ figures, when not otherwise specified, is the City of Del Mar Operating and Capital Improvement Budget for fiscal year 2007/2008.

Bettina Experton is Chair of Del Mar Finance Committee.

Foundation Grants Enrich Community

By Claire McGreal

The Del Mar Foundation recently issued grants to local organizations for the betterment of the community. The first grant was made to help with costs associated with a field trip for local school children to the San Dieguito Lagoon. Study of lagoons is a part of the fourth-grade science curriculum.

A second grant was made to purchase 100 copies of a new book "Cabo and Coral Go Surfing", written by Udo Wahn, M.D., a Del Mar resident. The book promotes respect for other people, the ocean, beaches, and ocean creatures. Copies of the book will be donated to the County Library, libraries of local schools, and Del Mar Lifeguards for their Beach Safety presentations to local school children.

The Del Mar Community Emergency Response Team ("CERT") was awarded a grant for purchase of nine two-way radios to be used for CERT training, and in the event of a disaster. CERT volunteers are trained as first responders in the event of a disaster.

A fourth grant went to the Friends of the San Dieguito River Valley Conservancy to help subsidize bus tours of the restoration of the San Dieguito Lagoon. The purpose of the tours is to educate the local populace in the importance of the Lagoon and the work involved with its restoration.

A fifth grant will enable the Del Mar Junior Lifeguard Program to enable a number of children in the program who otherwise could not afford it.

To learn more about the Del Mar Foundation, log onto www.delmarfoundation.org.

Claire McGreal is a Board member of the Del Mar Foundation.

Garden Design 101

The Del Mar Post Office Garden

By Mary Friestedt

Ah, July is here! Perhaps you've gone to some garden tours, read articles about new, easy plants for the garden, and are thinking about making your garden easier to maintain and more drought tolerant. The Del Mar Post Office garden is the perfect place to get ideas that will bring you beauty and joy for years to come! Here are some of the design principles from this beautiful garden, designed by Linda Chisari and Bill Teague and lovingly cared for by the Del Mar Garden Club.



SOIL – Someone said that if you have one dollar to spend on your garden, 90 cents should go for soil and the remainder for plants. Del Mar's soil is sandy, so it is

important to amend it with organic matter and micronutrients. A great deal of soil was added to the Post Office garden before work was begun, and it was formed into hills and mounds. In nature, the earth is rarely level.

ROCKS – Rocks add structure, strength, and stability to any landscape. Without the boulders and rocks at the Post Office, our garden would look forlorn. The dry stone creek bed that winds around our garden moves your eyes along the path and creates a natural, peaceful feeling.

BONES – All gardens need taller plants which serve as the bones of the garden. These should be planted first and usually toward the back. The drought-tolerant bones at the Post Office include a giant yucca, *Nandina domestica* (Heavenly bamboo), and *Psoralea*, with beautiful grape-scented flowers in the spring, *Raphiolepis umbellatum*, and *Pelargoniums*.

POTS – Flowers in pots pop out and create interest in a garden. At the Post Office, there are pots of *Salvia 'Indigo Spires'*, giant *Impatiens*, and *Mandevilla*.

COLOR – It is wise to pick a color scheme. At the Post Office, the palate includes pinks, blues, purples, whites, and a touch of yellow. Repeat colors and plants for a uniform feeling.

PLANTS – When buying plants, think of textures as well as drought tolerance. Gray foliage particularly pops out and adds interest to the garden. Look for companion plants that complement each other. Never plant in a straight line; focus on a natural look.

Are you ready to get out and start digging? Gardening is the most rewarding activity you will ever do! And if you have questions, drop by the Post Office on Tuesday between 8 and 9 am, when the Del Mar Garden Club members will happily answer all your gardening questions!

Mary Friestedt is a member of the Del Mar Garden Club and a Docent with the Quail Botanical Gardens.

Stalking the Mysterious Mandate

By Richard Earnest

Over the last several years, there has been a lot of debate about the city's budget challenges. The issues have been many and the misunderstandings about how municipal budgets work have been almost as numerous. I will not attempt to explain all the nuances of this form of budgeting in this small article but I would like to address an important one that has had a dramatic effect on Del Mar's ability to provide needed services to its residents.

The subject is unfunded mandates. So what is an unfunded mandate? Very simply, it is a requirement by a higher governing body to perform a function but without the funding to accomplish it. These requirements are usually regulatory in nature and the local government entity (meaning us), has no recourse but to comply or

face stiff fines or worse. More on that later.

As legislation is crafted to require these actions, the local government has little or no input into the legislative process and, in some cases, doesn't even know that new requirements are even being considered! Let me give you a current example. A few years ago, Sacramento decided to do something about cleaning up our oceans, streams, lakes and rivers. They were and are being negatively impacted by polluted storm water runoff. Now, I applaud the effort to clean up our natural water resources but the ensuing legislation was complex, very exacting and required a whole new level of effort by every city in the state. These new requirements or "mandates" came with no funding. In other words, "we know you are struggling financially but you must find the funds somewhere to cover the costs of these new requirements".

There have been a number of these unfunded mandates over the years and local government has no choice but to comply. If you refuse you may not be eligible for any

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TPAC: Less Traffic, More Parking

By Terry Plowden

The City of Del Mar Traffic and Parking Committee, TPAC, was established as a standing committee by a resolution of the City Council in July 1984. TPAC's purpose is to develop, through public meetings and discussion, advisory recommendations to the City Council on traffic and parking matters. TPAC strives to improve traffic and parking conditions for Del Mar residents and visitors. The committee works closely with Parking Enforcement, the San Diego County Sheriff's Traffic Enforcement Division, the Planning Department, and the City's Traffic Engineer in its consideration of traffic, parking and other related issues.

TPAC's five members are appointed by the City Council for a term of four years. Councilman Dave Druker and Mayor Hilliard currently serve as the City Council Liaisons to TPAC. Meetings are open to the public and are held the third Wednesday of each month at 7 pm in the City Hall Annex, 235 11th Street.

In the recent past TPAC has considered a) restrictions on parking in the 1100 block of Luneta Drive to address resident concerns regarding overflow parking from a nearby office building, b) measures to improve emergency vehicle and trash truck access on Primavera Lane, c) restrictions on parking after 10 pm in the 100 block of 15th Street to reduce late-night noise impacts to nearby residents, d) removal of unauthorized red curbing, and e) modification of parking requirements for restaurant uses in the commercial district to assist in the downtown revitalization efforts.

Last year TPAC addressed traffic concerns raised by residents on Crest Road. TPAC held a series of meetings to solicit public input on solutions proposed by the City Traffic Engineer. The primary objective was to reduce speed and discourage commuters from using Crest as an alternative to Interstate 5 and Camino del Mar, without adversely affecting adjoining streets. After considerable discussion and some modification, the City Engineer's recommendations were ultimately approved by the City Council.

Last summer the first phase of the Crest Road traffic-calming measures was implemented. These measures

included additional traffic enforcement, reduction in the posted speed to 15 miles per hour, and the addition of a four-way stop at Kalamath Drive.

The second phase implemented last winter included the installation of four experimental traffic "chicanes" designed to reduce the roadway width and the installation of two additional speed humps. A formal presentation of the City Traffic Engineer's evaluation and findings was made to the City Council on May 21, 2007.



If you are interested in serving on TPAC, the application deadline for the two current vacancies is July 13, 2007. Applications are available at www.delmar.ca.us and in the City Clerk's Department at City Hall.

Terry R. Plowden is Chair of TPAC.

Teacher of the Year!

Congratulations to Del Mar resident, **Rick Ehrenfeld** of 10th Street, who was recently named Teacher of the Year by the San Marcos Unified School District. Rick retired in early June after teaching for 24 years at San Marcos High School, initially as a math teacher. He later became a pioneer in developing the School's Telecommunications Academy. Rick is a member of the Del Mar Planning Commission.

Mandate

Continued from page 6

state grant monies or worse, be held liable for negative consequences of non-compliance. Del Mar has enthusiastically embraced this latest set of clean-water mandates because it is the right thing to do and a great idea. The problem is that it costs the city a lot of money each year to comply, document, test, inspect and many other requirements of the act. Last year alone, it cost the city \$344,000 to comply and this number is going up every year. We are not alone in this problem. Carlsbad

just announced that they are hiring nine new employees in the city just to comply with the storm water requirements imposed by Sacramento. We are covering the same requirement with current staff. Del Mar has been very active in asking Sacramento to help us carry the extra load without any positive results to date. We will continue to fight for better understanding of local government issues and more input to the process of providing services to the public at all levels.

I hope this helps you understand how increased spending can happen with no visible change in services delivered.

Richard Earnest is a Del Mar City Councilmember and former mayor.

The First Village Revitalization

By Larry Brooks

Recall that the last episode of our saga had Del Mar a “lively and thriving place to live” in the late 1880s with a luxury resort hotel in Casa Del Mar, shopping, a train station, and a rapidly expanding and appreciating residential section.

However, Del Mar’s founder and the driving force behind this success, Jacob Taylor, and his wife separated in 1889. Heavy rains and flooding during the winter of 1889-90 washed out many of Del Mar’s streets and left the town a quagmire. The coup de grâce came January 17, 1890, when the Casa Del Mar burned to the ground. At first Taylor said he would rebuild, but with the attraction of opportunities elsewhere, Taylor left Del Mar and returned to Texas.

With the town’s infrastructure all but gone, the steady stream of train passengers began to wane. The stores closed due to the dwindling population being unable to sustain them, and for the next several years, Del Mar was stagnant with more people leaving than arriving.

In 1905, the South Coast Land Company bought most of the land north of 9th Street. South Coast Land was part of a large conglomerate that included the fledgling “Huntington Interurban System,” and was acquiring land between Los Angeles and San Diego to extend its Pacific Electric Railway System.

With South Coast Land controlling land from Carlsbad to Del Mar, they chose Del Mar for the first phase of their new development. The designers decided not to use the California Southern right-of-way along Railroad Avenue, but instead to build a new right-of-way along the bluffs



to the west, thereby greatly reducing the grade up from Carmel Valley and making development along Railroad Avenue more palatable.



A new hotel was planned for 15th Street, and on March 9, 1909, the Stratford Inn, with a saltwater swimming pool and its own powerhouse, opened. A new train station was planned immediately below the new hotel, and shops were to be built nearby.

With this revitalized village of Del Mar and the “soon to be completed” electric railway connection to San Diego and Los Angeles, it was rumored that the Santa Fe Railroad, which had just acquired the near-defunct California Southern, would be “put out of business.” However, another twist of Del Mar fate led to a double-cross among the developers: the electric railway right-of-way was also sold to the Santa Fe and never completed. However, the Santa Fe did take advantage of the developers’ plans and realigned their right-of-way to the bluffs.

From this first “village revitalization”, Del Mar has both stumbled (e.g., the demise of the Hotel Del Mar, formerly Stratford Inn) and prospered (e.g., L’Auberge and the Plaza), and today, the saga continues.

Larry D. Brooks is Vice President of the Del Mar Historical Society.

A Silent Spring?

By Percy Dovetonsils

As communications director of the Southern California Avian Rescue Society (SCARS), it falls to me to call to your attention an alarming trend in the village of Del Mar that poses a serious threat to the well-being of our feathered friends, whose presence enriches our lives beyond calculation. I refer, of course, to the increasingly popular practice of removing the telephone and power lines that have long graced our village . . . and burying them underground!

What unthinking madness can this be?? When the lines



are removed, where then will our avian friends roost? When the poles and the transformers are all hauled to the dump, where shall they nest? Where is the sense in this willful destruction of critical habitat for so many endangered species, such as Thompson’s least warbler and the pileated grosbeak, to name but a few? Whither then the tender greeting of the dove at first light, the chirrupy benediction of the wren at sunset?

I submit it to you, beloved readers: When the last line is downed and the last transformer removed, its mellifluous hum suppressed forever, will we not indeed experience a Silent Spring?

Percy Dovetonsils (a.k.a. Rich Simons) is a resident of Del Mar.

July Community Calendar

Independence Day: Wednesday, July 4, 9am. Decorated Bike, Wagon, Scooter, Stroller Parade at Powerhouse Park sponsored by the Del Mar Foundation. Live Music by Steve Denyes and Hullabaloo. Theme: Red, White & Blue. Free to public.

Morning After Mess Beach Cleanup: Thursday, July 5, 8 to 11am at Powerhouse Park. Sponsored by Sun Diego Boardshops. Keep Del Mar Clean serves as site captains.

City Council Meetings: Mondays, July 9 and 23, 6pm, DMTV Station.

DMVA Organization Committee: Tuesday, July 10, 9 to 10:15am, Stratford Square Building, upstairs

DM Planning Commission: Tuesday, July 10, 6pm, DMTV Station.

Preschool Spanish and English Bilingual Storytime: Tuesday, July 10, 10:30 am, Del Mar Library.

Twilight Concert – The Mar Dels: Tuesday, July 10, 7pm, Powerhouse Park.

DMVA Promotion Committee: Wednesday, July 11, 9 to 10:30am, City Hall Annex.

Del Mar Foundation Board Meeting: Thursday, July 12, 8:30am, City Hall Annex.

Producer's Showcase: Thursday, July 12, 6pm, DMTV Station.

DMVA Design Committee: Friday, July 13, 9 to 10:15am, City Hall Annex

DMCC Board meeting: Saturday, July 14, 9am, City Hall Annex.

Del Mar Arts Center Board meeting: Monday, July 16, 6:30pm, DM Arts Center Featured Artist for the month of July, Shant Beudjekian, will exhibit "A Series of Fauvist Impressionism Paintings". A special reception to meet the Artist will be held on Sunday, July 8 from 4 to 6pm.

Del Mar Historical Society: Tuesday, July 17, 7pm, City Hall Annex.

DM Television Foundation Producer's Meeting: Wednesday, July 18, 6:30pm, DMTV Studio.

Friends of the Powerhouse Meeting: Wednesday, July 18, 9am, Jakes.

History Week Gala: Saturday, July 21, 7pm, Del Mar Hilton. Dinner and Cabaret.

DMVA Economic Restructuring Committee: Wednesday, July 25, 9am, L'Auberge Del Mar Spa and Resort, Lobby.

DM Design Review Board: Wednesday, July 25, 6pm, DMTV Station.

DMVA Board meeting: Thursday, July 26, 8:45am, City Hall Annex.

Rose Society Monthly Meeting: Thursday, July 26, 6:30 to 8:30pm, Powerhouse.

DMVA Design Committee: Friday, July 27, 9 to 10:15am, City Hall Annex.

DMCC Senior Legal Services: Friday, July 27. 9am to 1pm, DMCC Office.

History Week Children's Art Event: Sunday, July 29, 10am to 8pm, Powerhouse Park.

Maintaining Momentum Underground

By Jim Benedict

A surprising outcome of the Vision 2020 community research exercise was that the number-one issue, in importance to the 750-plus participants, was to

underground our utilities. I recently reported to the City Council that of the 559 poles on private property, 231 would be down by 2011 - an incredible fact. And of the 65 "scenic route" poles in our very public main streets, 26 would be down in 2008.

These very dramatic figures are a testament to the hardworking individuals who developed and formed private 20-B assessment districts in neighborhoods around Del Mar. Hat's off to them. And a very special thanks is extended to Joe Hoefgen who kept all of us on track to accomplish these lofty goals. He will be missed.

The current undergrounding task in the shores area is by itself a very complicated one. It will be a combination of 20-A funds used to take down "scenic route" poles; a 20-B assessment district in the Ocean Avenue area between 17th and 18th street; and private contributions just east of the railroad tracks across from the Poseidon. The utility lines will now go under the railroad tracks and not over them! Thanks to Larry Richards and Byron Oberg for their leadership.

What is ahead? We need to keep the momentum going. We also need to let the City staff and SDG&E catch up to this rush of interest. A next step is to find solutions to get the poles down around the Race Track, the Lagoon, and the remainder of the "scenic route" poles especially along Jimmy Durante. We are working on solutions, AND, we need to get individuals activated in the beach areas around 20th Street to Sandy Lane to form assessment districts.

Jim Benedict is a resident of Del Mar.



Undergrounding under way on Camino del Mar

Please join *the Sandpiper* in patronizing local restaurants and other retail businesses. It's for the good of all of us.

Boogie Boarding for Beginners

By Bertha Leone

Last August, my friends suggested a boogie-boarding afternoon at the beach. I certainly was not afraid of the ocean, having spent many summers playing in the waves of Coney Island. It was the fear of making a fool of myself as a first-timer that triggered my anticipatory anxiety.

"I don't quite get this idea of 'catching the wave,'" I commented to an experienced boogie-boarder, as I gathered information about the sport.

"It is really quite simple. You look behind you and see the wave coming. If you look ahead of you and see the wave going, it means you didn't catch the wave."

When the day arrived, the hardest part was getting into the cold Pacific water. It was like doing the Electric Slide, three steps forward and two steps back, boogie board in tow. Finally, the icy waves numbed my most sensitive body parts, the shock subsided, and I was IN.

Having observed what other boarders do, I flung my leg over the right side of the board until both legs were straddling its rear, while holding onto the front with both arms. Almost immediately, I rolled off the



left side. Determined to stay atop the board, I tightened my grip with the second attempt. This time the board and I flipped in unison, and I found myself face up, underwater, and under the board. Rescue came in the form of two friends, who explained Boogey Boarding 101, the three things required for success: balance, timing and momentum. Too bad I had none of these, especially balance.

With their help, I lay prone atop the board while each steadied a side. I felt like a whale beached on a surfboard. Dare I imagine how I looked to the spectators on the beach, the surfers behind me, or the young boogie boarders near the shore? As my friends launched me toward the breaking surf, I kept the vision of the dolphins I had seen surfing earlier that summer. Balance, timing and momentum. Suddenly I felt the exhilaration of riding the crest of a wave! The momentum gave me balance. The timing was a gift from my friends.

The feeling was pure, positive energy at its best. Too bad it was short-lived. The unforgiving breakers tossed my body and my board with salt and sand, eventually dumping us on the shore in an awkward heap. Untangling myself from the tether of the board, I was surprised to stand to the applause of my friends and the spectators around me. Could I possibly have some potential in this sport?

Bertha Leone is a resident of Del Mar.

Kay Muller – Wizard of Heights

By Jennifer McDowell

Ms. Kay Muller has done it again. *The Wizard of Oz* was a complete success with its one week run at Del Mar Heights Elementary School. For more than 30 years Ms. Muller continues to bring out the best in our 6th Grade students. Talent shines while students learn through the rigors of these ambitious stage productions. She double-casts the main roles, and during the off-stage nights those students help with stage crew and other production jobs.

The audience was filled each night with middle school, high school and college students who have been in past performances. Grandparents residing in Del Mar get to relive their experiences from 20 years ago when they helped with the lighting and sound for the Heights 6th Grade play. It is truly a community building experience.

Thank you to Kay Muller, Librarian Linda Tucker and Del Mar Heights staff for making this wonderful memory for our local students. I have been lucky enough to have my children in the productions of *Oliver* and *Wizard of Oz*.

Plays in the past have included *Puff the Magic Dragon*, *Tom Sawyer*, *The Sound of Music* and *Annie*.

Jennifer McDowell lives on Forest Way.





Del Mar Community Connections: a 501(c)(3) Nonprofit Corporation

Neighbors Helping Neighbors to Create
a Web of Safety, Service and Support

DMCC Special Events and Activities

Tuesday, July 17: DMCC bus trip to Balboa Park for free admission to:

- 1) Mingei International Museum, Eva Seisel designs for the home;
- 2) Museum of Art, Art of the Pre-Raphaelites from Delaware Art Museum.

Bus departs City Hall at 9:15am; returns 1pm. Suggested bus donation: \$7.

Tuesday, August 14: Mystery Garden tour in Del Mar. Carpool from City Hall. Depart 9:30, return 12 noon.

Save These Dates

Thursday, September 20: Annual Fundraiser Gala – Powerhouse, 5:30 to 9:30pm.

Sunday, September 30: Vehicles of Character car show.

Tuesday, October 3: Flu and Pneumonia Vaccinations, City Hall Annex, 9am to 3pm. Reservations required.

Tuesday, October 9: “Dead Sea Scrolls” at San Diego Natural History Museum. Advance Purchase Tickets \$20. Make reservation by September 7. DMCC bus departs 9:15am, returns 1pm. Suggested bus donation: \$7. Call 792-7565 for more information or to reserve.

DMCC Ongoing Events

Computer tutoring for seniors – free! In partnership with Casa di Amistad and the Solana Beach Senior Center, DMCC offer computer tutoring plus Web Adapt technology for those with vision problems: Mondays, 9 to 11:30am, at 120 Stevens Ave., SB, in the Computer Lab, Room 108. Call DMCC, 792-7565 for details.

Senior Fitness Classes: New classes for the summer on MWF at La Colonia Park: 7:45-8:45; 9-10; on Friday only, low impact (with chair): 10-11. Colleen Soto teacher. Classes begin 6/25; end 8/20. \$15. Register with San Dieguito Adult School (760) 753-7073 ext. 3418 or www.sdadulted.com

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

Warm Water Aerobics Class for Del Mar Seniors (92014 zip code area): Monday and Wednesday, 12 to 1pm at Noonan Family Swim School, Jimmy Durante Blvd. Fee: \$6/class or \$30 for 6 classes. Register in class. For more information call DMCC, 792-7565, or Eleanor Conlon, 792-8167. Also offered: arthritis warm water class for anyone with arthritis; open to residents throughout the area; meets on Thursdays, 12 to 1 at the same time and for the same price. This class is taught by a teacher trained and certified by the Arthritis Foundation.

DMCC's Senior Legal Services: Last Friday of the month (July 27, August 31), 9am-1pm. Attorney provides advanced healthcare directive, power of attorney, wills, referrals and more. FREE for seniors 60 and older in the 92014 zip code area. Must call DMCC, 792-7565, for appointment.

Shuttle Bus Service: DMCC shuttle bus provides pick-up at City of Del Mar residents' homes and takes them on alternate Wednesdays to Henry's and to Trader Joe's (Encinitas); on Thursdays to Von's on Mango and Ralph's shopping center in DM Highlands. See www.dmcc.cc. Suggested donation for each trip: \$3. Call 792-7565, 24 hours in advance to arrange pick up. The DMCC bus always has a host to help shoppers with their shopping and taking their groceries into the house. New hosts are always needed – **PLEASE VOLUNTEER!**

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.

Dial-A-Ride taxi vouchers for seniors and special needs residents are now available through DMCC. Call for details.

Friends of the San Dieguito River Valley will use the DMCC bus on Saturday, July 14, Sept. 15, Oct. 13 to tour the San Dieguito Lagoon wetlands and restoration project. Free. Call 674-2275, ext. 14 to reserve.

Shared Housing and Rental Assistance

Watch for a TV round table discussion of this program coming soon on Ch. 66!

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. Becoming a home provider offers many benefits: a bit of extra income from rent, help with chores, companionship or preventing loneliness, practice in seeing what it's like to share your home. All prospective tenants are prescreened, and background checks are conducted.

All efforts are made to find a compatible match for you. No one is placed with you until you have met and fully approved the individual.

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.

The Ocean Begins at Your Door

By Betty Wheeler

A May 31 offshore fuel spill closed 2 ½ miles of Encinitas coastline and forced the Switchfoot Bro-Am competition to substitute dodge ball for surfing, reminding us how vulnerable our beaches are to pollution. It's a good time to reflect on our own actions that add to beach and ocean pollution, because storm-water pollution, some of which starts at our door, is the leading cause of water pollution in California.

Fortunately, we can make easy changes to ensure that we don't end up swimming in pollutants from our own yards. Marine wildlife and plant life will benefit as well.

Check out the nearest storm drain. Perhaps it has a plaque reminding us that it drains to the ocean. Then look inside. All the litter, yard waste, dirt, and debris collected there will wash out to the ocean to greet us on a future visit to the beach. Whatever we send down the drains inside our houses goes through a sewage treatment facility before it has a chance to pollute waterways; not so with storm drains.

Cars, as usual, are a prime suspect. A quart of motor oil, dumped by someone who doesn't bother to recycle, can contaminate 250,000 gallons of water. Annually, we improperly dispose of 350 million gallons of used oil; 30 times more than the Exxon Valdez spill. If we power wash the driveway to



remove oil from a car leak, we're sending that oil to the ocean, along with any soap or solvents we used.

Consider these other common pollutants. A few easy changes will protect our beaches and ocean.

Sediment/yard waste: use mulch and plants to reduce erosion on your property; clean up and recycle leaves and yard waste to keep them out of storm drains. **Pet waste:** pick up after pets, and don't leave pet waste in your yard, to keep bacteria out of our oceans. **Garden-related pollutants:** fertilizer, pesticides, and other garden products, when not carefully used, wash out of your garden with irrigation or rain runoff. **Monitor your irrigation:** if you see water leaving your property, it's headed for the storm drain, carrying pollutants and picking up more along the way.

Soaps, solvents, paint: Use a carwash, which recycles water; rinse brushes with water-based paints inside, where drains are connected to the sewage treatment system; dispose of used paint and thinners as hazardous waste.

The ocean truly begins at our door. By acting accordingly, we can help protect our community's crown jewels, our beaches and ocean.

Betty Wheeler lives on Seaview Avenue.

Come one, come all to the Del Mar July 4th Parade!

9am at the Powerhouse.



SANDPIPER

DEL MAR'S COMMUNITY NEWSPAPER

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