

# SANDPIPER

## Gas Station Site, Take Two

By Wayne Dernetz

Responding to community input, the developers of the former gas station site at 10th Street and Camino del Mar have retained local architect James Sneed to re-design their proposed office/condominium project. The new preliminary design, tentatively renamed "The Villages", was introduced to the Gas Station Site Steering Committee



Elevation from 10th Street

at their June and July meetings. While condominium-office use remains the central theme, retail and restaurant uses on the ground level facing Camino del Mar are expanded. The most striking change is the craftsman-style architectural approach to the structural exteriors.

Referring to the new design concept, Mr. Sneed said, "I tried to make it more village-like, a little more random

and less rigid." He emphasized that the design is not yet finished and certain elements must be tested. Steering Committee members and the public reacted favorably to the new design. The Committee gave the go-ahead for temporary story poles to be erected on the site allowing further analysis of view corridors and other features. The developers and the Committee will seek additional community input, and further design modifications may be made.

The revised plan includes a large public plaza offering ocean views at 10th Street and Camino del Mar, a restaurant and a café at ground level along Camino del Mar. Both the restaurant and café have indoor and outdoor seating. A smaller plaza located behind the restaurant and café provides access to interior retail and/or office spaces. Additional retail/office spaces are located above the restaurant, the café and the retail/office spaces below. An upper-level plaza overlooks the main plaza.

According to Mr. Sneed, the project height does not exceed 26 feet, about the same height as the existing retaining wall along the east boundary of the property. The revised plan includes 19,584 square feet of gross floor area resulting in a floor area ratio of 76.3 percent. A two-level underground parking garage accommodates 107 vehicles; six more than is required under current regulations.

Wayne Dernetz is a resident of Del Mar.

## Also In This Issue:



Will resident-serving shops at L'Auberge survive? See page 3.



Overseeing the Junior Lifeguards. See page 7.



Dogs, and their friends, enjoy the grass at the Shores site. See page 8.

## Summer – The Season We Love to Hate

Here we are in the middle of summer with the usual complaints – the tourist invasion, the race traffic, inconsiderate beach goers, excessive noise, trash and coastal fog. Yet, it's the season that defines Del Mar in the minds of many people – and in a large sense makes it what it is. If Del Mar cannot make it in the summer, it just can't make it! As residents, we would like to eat our cake, and have it remain whole as well. Making the city commercially vibrant while keeping the resident-serving village character is the perennial challenge – and summertime brings this dilemma to the fore. Should

current revitalization efforts bring us a yearlong summer business season, or should we dial back our wishes for commercial success? Battle lines within the community have been drawn and redrawn over the years – but when summer comes, we all seem to man the same side of the barricades with shared complaints. In the summer, we all recognize the downside of “excess success.” Of course it's easier to know what we don't want, than to specify what we do. Perhaps this is why we sometimes look elsewhere for the answer – envying other communities' perceived successes, adopting “franchised” revitalization programs and hiring expensive consultants. Summer is the time to sit back and relax. It's a time to recharge our batteries, a time to reflect on who we are, what we've done and where we'll be going. Let's all take a deep breath, and perhaps a dip in the ocean. Revitalization begins inside of us, both as individuals and as a community. Have a great rest of summer!

## Reflections on Lauraine

By Crystal Crawford

*(Del Mar's City Manager, Lauraine Brekke-Esparza, will retire in September, after 15 years with the city.)*

I first met Lauraine during one of the many controversies that so characterize our thoughtful and cautious city. It was at L'Auberge on a beautiful, sunny day to talk about the “traffic circles” lawsuit wracking our community. Notable at the time, and consistent throughout her tenure, were Lauraine's lovely smile, good nature and hearty laugh – and her skillful problem-solving talent. Lauraine talked about how her coming to Del Mar from Ventura was a surprise – she initially thought Del Mar was too small a town for her, but then, luckily, she visited and fell in love with the community.

The many councilmembers I have known all share an admiration for Lauraine's unique ability to work through even the most difficult issues with unflappable grace and

creativity. She gets the city's work done effectively, efficiently and enjoyably. Every year we rearrange the seating on the dais and, unbeknownst to the public, councilmembers always jockey, even negotiate(!), to sit next to Lauraine during City Council meetings. For all her professionalism, Lauraine doesn't have a poker face; she's known for making remarks under her breath. So if you sit next to Lauraine, you have the advantage of knowing how the City Manager really feels about the proceedings even when, publicly, she does her best to keep her opinions to herself!



Lauraine is recognized among her colleagues for her exceptional skills in all aspects of City Management and for her leadership. Council members past and present will attest that she has earned the highest esteem of city officials throughout San Diego County. She is currently President of the San Diego City/County Managers' Association.

Lauraine loves to travel, several years ago trekking to Peru to visit the ruins of Machu Pichu with her husband, Richard, a former museum director. More recently, Lauraine began having chronic hip and back pain. So, in 2005, Lauraine underwent two hip replacements during one year. She has since fully recovered and now plans trips to Europe to begin enjoying an active retirement. Lauraine, who endured the frightening fall of a ceiling tile onto her desk in our aged city hall, once said that if she ever left Del Mar for another city, she would say it was because she wanted a job with indoor plumbing! Fortunately, we never lost her to another city. Rather, she leaves for a fun and much deserved retirement. We wish her well. But, oh, how we will miss her!

*Crystal Crawford is a Del Mar City Councilmember.*

**DEL MAR'S COMMUNITY NEWSPAPER**



**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.

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# The Dismantling of *Measure B*

By Jan McMillan

In 1986, the Del Mar voters approved a citizens' initiative called the *Downtown Initiative*, or *Measure B*, which established an ordinance that required owners of large properties in the Central Commercial zone to submit specific plans if they proposed to exceed underlying zoning, and also mandated that they provide "exceptional public benefits" in exchange for this privilege. By that time, all California cities had the option to use specific plans, but Del Mar's initiative was innovative because it required a public vote both to adopt and change such plans. The Del Mar electorate subsequently approved the Plaza and Hotel specific plans.

This past July 9, as they considered a request from L'Auberge to erase 4,700 square feet of mixed-use retail space called for in the Hotel plan, I watched our City Council take the first steps towards dismantling Measure B. After all the hard work it took volunteers to write and pass Measure B, I would be ashamed to witness its demise without saying a word.

To Del Mar newcomers, the request may seem harmless, but consider the benefits that accrued to the hotel property when its specific plan was approved: (1) a floor-area bonus of 39%; (2) an increase in stories from two to three or four; (3) a height increase from 26 feet to 34 feet; and (4) conversion of several acres of residentially zoned land to commercial. In exchange, the hotel agreed to provide several benefits, including 4,700 square feet of "community-oriented retail" offering "resident-serving retail shops." These shops exist now, but 90% of their space will be converted to a single day-spa facility if L'Auberge's application is treated merely as part of a remodel.

Council discussion about this matter was disconcerting in several ways: First, the typical way of analyzing land-use changes is to send them first to the Planning Commission. Yet Councilmember Abarbanel could not even get a second to his motion to do just that. The staff, who had placed the matter before the Council, gave the Council an out by stating they could change the procedure. The idea was still dismissed.

Second, for at least the past two years, the City has been in a frenzy to "revitalize" downtown and capture more sales-tax revenue, even imposing a moratorium on conversion of retail space to offices. Yet, Councilmembers seem undisturbed by the loss of three shops.

Third, the Del Mar Village Association, the major proponent of revitalization and increased sales-tax revenue, was absent. I interpret their silence as tacit approval, and I wonder why.

Last, every comment from the public, which included four former Councilmembers and a former Planning Commissioner, objected to the conversion. Most if not

all of the people who worked to pass *Measure B* have also supported the platforms of the majority of present Councilmembers. It is especially regrettable that the Council did not even send it to the Planning Commission, let alone acknowledge the obvious, that such a change should go to a public vote. Who knows? Maybe the voters would approve it.

Instead, the meeting's outcome was fuzzy. Some portion of the remodeling went to the July 25th Design Review Board meeting. On August 20th, the Council will look at floor plans for the proposed spa area. What decision did the Council make? It's hard to tell.



*The fate of the quasi-public amphitheater at L'Auberge hangs in the balance.*

In conclusion, the Council has made a mistake that should be corrected by sending the entire application to the Planning Commission for review. (There are some other elements, reconfiguring the quasi-public park, for example, that also generated objections.) Otherwise, I foresee nothing but the slow whittling away of *Measure B* and the opportunity for exceptional public benefits that goes with it.

*Jan McMillan is a former Mayor of Del Mar.*

## Important Meeting

Public forum on L'Auberge remodel

August 1 at 10am

Location: L'Auberge Ballroom

# Balancing the Parking Burden

By Bettina Experton

Concluding a 6-month study to explore possible new revenue sources for the City, the City of Del Mar Finance Committee recently presented its conclusions to the community and City Council at the City's budget workshops. Besides the worrisome flattening of sales-tax revenue, one of the drivers for this study was the only partially compensated cost our small beach community has been incurring to maintain and service our beaches and parks for more than 2 million visitors a year.

Specifically, with \$2.2 million expended in the lifeguard, beach and parks maintenance and a revenue of only \$1 million in limited paid parking to solely offset that cost, our small community of 4,500 residents and local merchants de facto provides more than \$1 million in subsidies for visitors' beach access. On a per-resident basis, Del Martians pay in excess of 400 times the price paid out by Del Mar visitors who come to our beaches!

To correct this unfair cost burden, and in close consultation with City staff, the Finance Committee looked at possible means to capitalize and no longer subsidize our most precious assets of our beaches and parks. To generate the minimum \$1 million revenue needed, while meeting the State of California Coastal Commission's requirements to provide for open and equal public access to the beach\*, the Committee recommended that Del Mar implement a comprehensive paid-parking plan, including expanded paid parking, and parking permits for residents, local businesses, and visitors.

According to the Finance Committee, the proposed parking plan could generate up to \$3.3 million in additional revenue to the City with an estimated annual increased operational cost of \$135,000 and a one time investment of \$350,000 to \$735,000 depending on the

selected type of additional equipment installed (parking meters or pay-and-display machines). Upon receiving the Committee's full report, the City Council instructed the Director of the City's Community Services Department to develop an implementation plan which will be presented to the Community for public input within the next few months.

Most coastal communities in California have in place such paid-parking programs. Our immediate coastal neighbors from Oceanside to La Jolla have just or are about to put in place such plans. In addition to the increased revenues, a well-designed parking plan has been shown to better serve residents, merchants and visitors alike. From providing additional parking access with a higher rate of turnover, to more time to park for shopping and dining, to the reduction of traffic congestion and air pollution from less traffic cruising, to controlled parking in residential areas, and the opportunity for all of us with parking permits to park without the inconvenience of paying meters, the choice is clear.

*Bettina Experton is Chair of the Del Mar Finance Committee.*

\*The California Coastal Commission considers most of Del Mar (except for the hill area) in the "beach access zone" with regard to parking.



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## Sips and Tidbits

By Wayne Dernetz

This month, we're introducing a new feature in the Sandpiper to provide our readers with tips on favorite menu items, money-saving suggestions and other helpful information from Del Mar's many outstanding restaurants. We welcome your suggestions and contributions. Send along your favorite menu suggestions and restaurant tips to: Sandpiper@inbox.com

Sbicca's, 215 15th Street, cuts prices in half on their entire fabulous wine list every Tuesday and Thursday night. On the menu this month, they're featuring 12 oz. Meyer New York steaks and horseradish-encrusted fresh Alaskan Halibut.

Try the Pesto Halibut at the Americana Restaurant, 1454 Camino del Mar, along with other delicious lunch

and dinner entrées while enjoying half off on their wines every Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday. And, did you know that the Café Americana offers an exquisite selection of fine beers on tap? Nowhere else within driving distance can you enjoy a frosty glass of one of the world's best beers, Pilsner Urquell, "the original pilsner," direct from the Czech Republic.

During midweek at Jake's Del Mar, 1666 Coast Boulevard, you can enjoy Waikiki Wednesdays: 2 fish tacos for \$6.00 and a Duke's Mai Tai for only \$3.50. If your appetite is Kahuna-sized, enjoy the half-priced bistro menu every weekday from 4 to 6pm. and Saturdays from 2:30 to 4:30pm. Along with what is arguably Del Mar's best beef burger, you can dig into a Sterling Silver New York strip steak, some Ahi poke rolls, seared sea scallops or macadamia-coated calamari. In the main dining room, you'll find the nightly fresh-fish specials (\$28 to \$32). Enjoy!

*Wayne Dernetz is a resident of Del Mar.*

# Revitalize our Farmers' Market?

By John Graybill

The Del Mar Farmers' Market was the wonderful creation of a few energetic citizens who saw an opportunity in our town 20 years ago when Windmill Farms closed its doors. Only one farmers' market existed in San Diego County at that time, and it was way up in Vista. Our market soon became a bustling enterprise serving the needs of many residents in the area.

The farmers' market concept has clearly caught on, and today there is strong competition. Now there are 30 markets in San Diego County and more than 90 in Southern California. Many markets are managed like successful shopping centers -- systemized businesses supported by their cities. The best-run markets select only the farmers with the highest-quality produce. Their locations are readily identifiable to make them easy to find with convenient parking. The tenant mix of each market is carefully planned by the market manager to provide synergy by selecting complementary farmers so the individual parts add up to more than a loose collection of farm stands. Size helps, but stellar quality and variety of selection are the crucial factors for success. There is a mix of sparkling fresh fruits and vegetables, and there are unusual crops too. And to further enhance an interesting shopping experience, chefs are cooking; new musicians are playing each week... You get the picture.

How does our market compare to the 30 others in San Diego County? Is it time to revitalize it? Take a drive to Hillcrest, Santa Monica, San Marino, or Torrance to see highly successful farmers markets in operation. (Go to the California Federation of Certified Farmers' Markets website [www.cafarmersmarkets.com](http://www.cafarmersmarkets.com) for times and locations.) Solana Beach has improved its market when it moved from the Solana Beach Plaza to Cedros Avenue in 2005. The quality of fruits and vegetables improved. Variety of selection has improved. It has almost everything ours has plus soups, jams, hot dogs, roasted products, dates, cheeses, cacti, dresses/hats/purses, barbecued treats, kettle corn, and coffees. It has seven produce farmers compared to our three, and five citrus fruit farmers compared to our two. Also, the synergy and visual appeal are noteworthy.

The business model for our farmers' market was created two decades ago. The question now is: Do we want to revitalize it to be more competitive with other nearby markets, or do we want it to remain a low-key, small-town, and resident-serving village market? "We've lost four farmers in the last three years. When Pacific Beach Farmers Market opened, we really felt a drop in sales volume." said Del Mar Farmers' Market Manager Alan Uesry. According to Jacqueline Winterer, Treasurer of the Del Mar Farmers' Market Board, "Sales have been flat for four years." If we choose not to change, can our market survive for another 20 years?

If we choose to revitalize, a vibrant farmers' market could serve as a magnet to draw shoppers to the south



end of town – a catalyst to put the south end of town on the shopping district map and improve our tax base. Also, it could appeal to more local residents as a community meeting place to see friends and neighbors. How could we revitalize the market? A first step could be to join with the Del Mar Village Association to create an action plan. Ideas for the plan could be:

- Install a colorful banner over the market to clearly identify the location;
- Update the farmers' stands and canopies so colors, shapes, and sizes create better visual appeal;
- Work with farmers to post signs on stands with info on pricing, growing methods, farm location, etc.;
- Increase the selling area of the market to accommodate more farmers;
- Create a food-court section with prepared foods to draw visitors looking for a tasty snack or a quick meal;
- Recruit quality musicians to create an artistic ambiance to the market and rotate in new musicians each week;
- Place temporary signs on Camino Del Mar each week directing traffic to convenient parking areas;
- Promote the market with newspaper ads featuring an outstanding farmer's products each month.

There seem to be more questions than answers right now. With all the talk of revitalization going on, our farmers' market should be included in the discussion. Many changes can be implemented to improve the market if that is the will of our town. The same can-do spirit that created our market 20 years ago needs to be harnessed today and channeled into smart decision-making and community cooperation. That spirit will be the wind in our sails to enable us to compete in this new century and protect our autonomy as a city and a community.

Send in your comments to [Sandpiper@inbox.com](mailto:Sandpiper@inbox.com).

*John Graybill is a resident of Del Mar.*

# Let's Seize the Moment!

By Lauraine Brekke-Esparza

This fall, the Del Mar City Council will receive a report from a consultant team analyzing several possible options for developing the City's site at 1050 Camino del Mar. I urge readers of the Sandpiper to follow this issue, to participate in the public conversation and to help the Council fashion a plan that meets the greatest number of community objectives.

For those of you unfamiliar with City Hall, the main building is an old parochial school, originally built in 1959 and remodeled, most recently, over 30 years ago. This



building has no indoor plumbing, is not accessible to the disabled, has major structural problems as well as mold: From time to time light fixtures crash down from the ceiling imperiling whoever is below. The second building, because it is basically unfit for human habitation, houses valuable city records and is a liability in its own right.

In addition, there are two trailers (a.k.a., "modular units") on the site. The larger one, "gifted" by the County for \$1/year was "temporarily" used (for 15 years as it turned out) as a public library until the City purchased and refurbished the lovely St. James Building (the current library site) in 1996. The old trailer is now used on a daily basis for numerous meetings and workshops and includes some office space for city staff, the sheriff, and Community Connections' housing office. The smaller trailer houses computer-operations staff. The fifth building on the site is the newest. Built in the 1980s, the adobe-like structure houses the City's public-access TV studio, includes offices for the City's cable provider and is the site of Monday-night Council meetings.

The Council, with input from the community, will have the opportunity to choose between several scenarios for the possible development of the site. Each scenario will include new city-office and civic spaces to replace the rapidly deteriorating buildings described above. But then

different possibilities will be analyzed: (1) city offices/civic uses combined with commercial/retail space to enhance and complement the downtown-revitalization efforts currently underway; (2) city offices/civic uses combined with residential development; (3) city offices/civic uses with residential/commercial and other office uses.

The consultant team includes the expertise to assess the feasibility of a range of development scenarios, which will vary in land use, density, building configuration, and parking. To those of you who would like to see the entire site devoted exclusively to public uses, I would urge you to look at the economic realities. The City simply does not have the money to finance a new civic/public center on its own and I do not believe there is public sentiment to raise the money with new taxes or private fundraising. So why not seriously embrace an option that puts the site to a mixture of good uses (retail/commercial and/or housing ) that might help defray (or even entirely pay for) the city offices and civic uses that are needed?

As I write this, I do not know which mix of uses is going to pencil out to be the most economically feasible or the most desirable. I just know that we have an opportunity to solve some long-standing problems and we must come together to figure out the best solution. We can develop the site commercially to help create a southern "anchor" and a reason for residents and visitors to walk, shop and eat their way down Camino del Mar from the Del Mar Plaza and the Hotel. We can develop more parking than exists today; we can create a mix of uses to complement the development of the old gas-station site across the street. We can create more housing opportunities on the site to capitalize on Del Mar's very strong appeal for residential housing. We can build decent working space for city employees and much needed civic space for the community. Whatever we do we can also create an income stream to help offset any costs of the public amenities included on the site. But we cannot do it all. We have to make some choices.

The time is right. Let's seize the opportunity and turn an eyesore and an embarrassment into something the community can be proud of!

*Lauraine Brekke-Esparza is Del Mar's City Manager.*

## Lost and Found: Del Mar TV

Have you noticed lately that your favorite local TV shows have moved? Due to the change of local cable provider, Channel 66 Del Mar TV programming is now on Channel 24.

For complete programming, log onto:  
[www.delmartv.com/schedule/Schedule0708.pdf](http://www.delmartv.com/schedule/Schedule0708.pdf)

# A Lifesaving Del Mar Tradition

By Susan Miller

You may have seen the white tent on the beach at 29th Street, or the clusters of young people on the beach, in matching blue swimsuits and white T-shirts emblazoned with red logos. Although it looks like they're having a lot of fun – the jokes and laughter confirm this – it is also hard work and part of a valuable training program. The participants are enrolled in the Del Mar Junior Lifeguard (JG) program – an important area tradition as well as a highlight of the summer for many.

The hard-working and highly qualified director of the Del Mar Junior Lifeguard program is Turtle Rudolph, who is in her 4th summer with the Del Mar JG program, and served as director for the Solana Beach JG program for 8 summers prior. Turtle holds certification in many areas, including Lifeguard Academy, EMT, CPR, Cliff diving, Rescue Boat operations, ASTREA training and more. As if that were not enough, she has a BA in child development, is a nationally ranked female distance paddleboard competitor, and is a graduate of the National Outdoor Leadership School (NOLS). Needless to say, participants are in good hands with Turtle and her hand-picked Instructors, many of whom have been with the program for years. Turtle recently agreed to an interview with *the Sandpiper*:

## What is the background and purpose of the program?

The Del Mar Junior Lifeguard Program is a comprehensive youth training program for ages 9-17, serving approximately 900 participants this summer. The Program is designed to develop and build self-esteem, lifesaving/emergency skills and techniques, physical fitness, respect and appreciation of the ocean environment and general water safety. This is accomplished through a variety of techniques, including games and competitions, lectures, surfing, body boarding, swimming, skin diving, special guest visits and training with lifeguard emergency equipment.

## What are some of the ways that the program benefits the Del Mar community?

The Program benefits the community in several ways. Participants are learning about beach and ocean safety as well as preservation of our ocean, beach, parks and ultimately earth. Our Junior Guard participants right now are our future, and if they can pass on their love for the ocean, beach and surrounding community we will be able to enjoy our wonderful resources much longer.

I employ 45 local kids each summer who meet the



requirements for the Intern position. For most of the Interns, working with the DMJG program is their first job. Before being hired, they will go through their first panel interview, swim try out and application process. Hopefully they will learn and benefit for future job interviews.

The Del Mar Lifeguard Department is benefiting from the JG program participants because as they grow older they are eligible to try out for student guard (at age 16) and lifeguard positions (age 18 and up). Five Del Mar Junior Lifeguard alumni participated in the 2007 Del Mar Lifeguard academy and are currently student guards here. The Lifeguard Department supports the JG program wholeheartedly and both departments enjoy a great relationship on and off the beach. The JG program would not exist without the support of Lifeguard Chief Pat Vergne and the entire Department. Ultimately, the community and all beach goers are benefiting from the Del Mar Lifeguard Department.

More information about the Del Mar Junior Lifeguard program can be found at [www.delmarjg.com](http://www.delmarjg.com).

*Susan Miller is a resident of Del Mar.*

## Code Enforcement

Del Mar's long time code-enforcement officer, Mike Emerson, recently accepted an opportunity to move to Encinitas. According to Planning Director, Linda Niles, the city will employ a transition strategy to fulfill this function while deliberations continue about how to handle code enforcement and clean-water enforcement on a permanent basis.

Beginning July 17, a contract was signed with Willdan Company to deploy Bill Cassaboom, an experienced code-enforcement officer, to handle complaints three days a week. Planning staff members will fill in as needed. On weekends, calls can be directed to the Fire Department and the Community Services Department. To get information or make complaints, residents can call 755-9313.

## “Positive Momentum” at the Shores

By Laura DeMarco, Joe Sullivan, and John Graybill

The City of Del Mar and the Del Mar Unified School District have resumed negotiations for the City's acquisition of the Shores School and park property on 9th Street. Although negotiations remain confidential, it is hoped that an agreement can be reached this summer that would ensure the property remains in the public trust, while saving both parties several hundred thousand dollars in litigation costs.



On July 19, the DMUSD Board of Trustees held a special closed-session meeting to review the July 11 counter-offer proposal from the City of Del Mar regarding the Shores property. At the conclusion of the meeting, DMUSD Board President, Annette Easton, commented, “The DMUSD Board was pleased with the July 11 counter-offer proposal from the City of Del Mar, and the DMUSD Board has responded with a revised counter-offer proposal that will be delivered to the Del Mar City Council members by Friday July 20. The DMUSD Board of Trustees appreciates that the real-estate discussions between the City and the DMUSD have developed positive momentum that will hopefully benefit both residents of the DMUSD and the City of Del Mar. Along with the other members of the DMUSD Board, I am looking forward to a successful completion of the real-estate negotiations between our two agencies.”

In anticipation of a deal being reached, the Friends of Del Mar Parks (the committee of the Del Mar Foundation dedicated to the Shores School and park acquisition) has been busy this summer recruiting supporters and volunteers to launch the coming capital campaign. The Friends were the lead sponsor of the Del Mar Village Association's successful Summer Solstice event at Powerhouse Park in June.

The Powerhouse Park setting was auspicious in energizing a team of committed volunteers and recruiting 100 new supporters. Over 20 years ago, Del Mar united to acquire the irreplaceable Powerhouse

parkland. Like Powerhouse Park, the Del Mar community now has the once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to acquire another 5-acre ocean-view site for future generations of residents, families, and children.

The Shores property contains the only school, grassy playing fields, and last available open space in the heart of Del Mar. It is the founding field of Del Mar Little League and a source of happy memories for successive generations of students and parents, athletes, picnickers, dog owners, families, and residents. Sixty-one years ago, the Kerckhoff family conveyed the Shores property to the school district on condition that it be used only for “school purposes” and not for residential or commercial development. The City and Del Mar community will be able to honor the Kerckhoff legacy by making the Shores School and park site another great community resource just like Powerhouse Park.

Joining the effort to acquire the Shores property is the Winston School, the 19-year tenant of the Shores School facilities. The Winston School successfully educates college-bound children with learning differences and makes its facilities available for community use. Winston provides an irreplaceable service to these children. More than half of the students are placed by public school districts throughout Southern California that cannot accommodate their special needs.

You can find further information, sign up as supporter, and volunteer by going to the Friends of Del Mar Parks website, [www.delmarparks.org](http://www.delmarparks.org).

*Laura DeMarco, Joe Sullivan, and John Graybill are Del Mar residents and leaders of the Friends.*

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## Foundation Welcomes Shelley Moore

The Del Mar Foundation has reached a major milestone in its 25-year history by naming Shelley Moore its first-ever executive director. Moore is a seasoned development professional, with over ten years working at national human-service, healthcare and higher-education organizations. A USC alum, she brings a unique blend of nonprofit experience and philanthropic volunteerism to her role as executive director. “I look forward to working with Foundation Board members and Del Mar residents in identifying the strategic direction an endowment would provide,” Moore said. “Building on the organizational history to serve as a catalyst and convener makes it well suited to endowment building and ensuring the Foundation's ability to lead projects and initiatives that meet community needs today and tomorrow.”



# August Community Calendar

**Friends of Del Mar Library Board Meeting:** Wednesday, August 1, 4pm, Del Mar Library.

**Del Mar Art Center Gallery solo show – Dixie Galapon:** August 1-31, Del Mar Art Center Gallery. Reception Sunday, August 5, 2-6pm, Del Mar Plaza 3rd level; the public is invited and refreshments will be available.

**Del Mar Farmer's Market:** Saturdays, 1-4pm, City Hall parking lot. Purchase fresh, locally grown produce, flowers, eggs, and many other products.

**City Council Meetings:** Monday, August 6 & August 20, 6pm, Del Mar TV Station.

**Cultural Arts Committee:** Wednesday, August 29, 8:30am, Powerhouse Community Center. Meetings open to anyone who would like to attend.

**DMVA Promotions Committee:** Wednesday, August 8, 9am, Del Mar TV Studio.

**Del Mar Foundation Board Meeting:** Thursday, August 9, 8:30am, City Hall Annex. All interested parties are welcome.

**Producer's Showcase:** Thursday, August 9, 6pm, Del Mar TV Studio. The purpose is to hone skills and develop programs of interest to local viewers.

**DMVA Design Committee:** Friday, August 10 and August 24, 9am, City Hall Annex.

**DMCC Monthly Board Meeting:** Saturday, August 11, 9am, City Hall Annex. The meeting is open to the public. For other DMCC events, see page 11.

**DMVA Organization Committee:** Tuesday, August 14, 9am, Stratford Square Building.

**Preschool Spanish/English Storytime:** Tuesday, August 14, 10:30am, Del Mar Library.

**Twilight Concert: The Steely Damned:** Tuesday, August 14, 7pm, Powerhouse Park.

**Del Mar Television Foundation Producer's Meeting:** Wednesday, August 15, 6:30pm, Del Mar TV Studio. This is the monthly meeting and networking for those interested in developing programs at DMTV.

**Del Mar Summer Beach Festival:** Sunday, August 19, 10am-9:30pm, on the beach, at Powerhouse Park and in the Powerhouse Community Center. First annual Rusty Del Mar Surf Contest plus a Festival of surfboards, fine art, music and films, demonstrations of longboard shaping, food concessions and vendor booths; [www.delmarmainstreet.com](http://www.delmarmainstreet.com).

**Del Mar Arts Center Board Meeting:** Monday, August 20, 6:30pm, Del Mar Arts Center.

**Gas Station Site Steering Committee:** Tuesday, August 21, 4:00pm, City Hall Annex.

**Del Mar Historical Society Monthly Meeting:** Tuesday, August 21, 7pm, City Hall Annex.

**DMVA Economic Restructuring Committee:** Wednesday, August 22, 9am, L'Auberge Del Mar Resort and Spa lobby.

**Design Review Board:** Wednesday, August 22, 6pm, Del Mar TV Station.

**DMVA Board of Directors Meeting:** Thursday, August 23, 8am, City Hall Annex.

**Rose Society Monthly Meeting:** Thursday, August 30, 6:30pm-8:30pm, Powerhouse. Floral Arrangements.

*Please submit calendar items for the September edition of the Sandpiper to Liz Dernetz ([ldernetz@pacbell.net](mailto:ldernetz@pacbell.net)) no later than Saturday, August 18.*

## A Summer to Remember

### "Blossoms of snow, may you bloom and grow"

By Clare B

During our family vacation this summer we visited Zermatt, Switzerland. We arrived in Zurich and took a train called the Glacier Express to Zermatt. Looking out our train window we could see snow-capped mountains, streams of rushing water and small villages with homes that had slate stone roofs. The train was very quiet because it runs on electricity. The energy for its uphill journey comes from the energy stored from going downhill. There were only five of us on the train, and we had all the windows open. We were able to sit on either side of the train so we could see all the way up to the top of the Alps. We went through many tunnels and came within inches of the steep hillside. Everywhere you looked it was green and beautiful.

We finally arrived in Zermatt, and our hotel picked us up in a small electric car. There were other people getting rides in horse drawn carriages. There are no regular cars allowed in this town - only electric. Franz who owned the hotel showed us our room, which had a huge window that looked straight out to the Matterhorn. I could hardly believe my eyes.

The next day we took a cogwheel train to go further up the mountain to Gornergat.

There, we were able to hike in the Alps of Switzerland. I looked everywhere for edelweiss, but it was too early for them. Here it was June, the middle of our summer, and we were actually hiking in the snow and throwing snowballs. I was so sad to have to leave Zermatt and our beautiful Hotel Bellavista.

Zermatt was my favorite place out of all the places we went this summer, and I can't wait to see it sometime again.



# Don't Be An Ostrich

By Carol Kerridge

We all remember with horror the dark clouds, the soot in the air and watching news reports as 12 people died and hundreds of our near-by neighbors lost their homes as wildfires raged just a few miles to the east of us four years ago.

Unfortunately, this season, is once again being called one of the driest in the history of San Diego County. Surrounded by beautiful trees and foliage, our Del Mar residents and homes are not immune to the devastating effects of wildfires.

According to the American Red Cross, there are some simple steps that we can take to better protect ourselves, our homes and our community:

## Before wildfire threatens:

- Remove foliage and clutter around your house (clear 30 to 100 feet)
- Clear all flammable vegetation
- Prune tree branches and shrubs that extend over the roof
- Regularly clean roofs and gutters
- Use fire resistant or non-combustible materials on the roof and exterior of the house
- Plant fire-resistant trees, shrubs and plants
- Store flammable liquids/materials in approved safety cans away from the house
- Be prepared to evacuate (with important papers and valuables)

## When wildfire threatens:

- Keep a battery-operated radio ready for official reports and evacuation information
- Shut doors, close windows and keep garage doors closed
- Get car ready and gather valuables/important papers
- Make plans for pets (confine to one room for quick exit)
- Arrange temporary housing with friends or relatives

**If instructed to evacuate:** Lock home, follow evacuation directions, take protective clothing, bring Disaster Kits.

By working with the Del Mar/Solana Beach Fire Dept., many residents have been hard at work learning to become lay first-responders. As part of a nation-wide program (Community Emergency Response Team/CERT), our local Fire Dept. is offering free training in basic skills that are necessary if emergency services are not immediately available or are overwhelmed should a major disaster occur.

Acting as individuals first, then later as members of teams, trained CERT volunteers can fan out within their assigned areas, extinguishing small fires, turning off natural-gas inlets to damaged homes, performing light search and rescue, and rendering basic medical treatment.

Twenty-five Del Mar residents and two Del Mar City staff members have already completed this training, but wouldn't it be great to have a CERT-trained person in every neighborhood? Is there one in your area?

Here is a list of Del Mar neighborhoods in need of volunteers: the beach area; Balboa/Seaview/Luzon area; Crest Rd.; 15th St/Carolina/Cuchara; and the Del Mar Woods area.

The next training session begins October 2nd at 6pm. The training sessions are held on Tuesday evenings and Saturdays for one month, for a total of 25 hours.

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

Please don't be an ostrich; get your head out of the sand and do what you can to be prepared!



*Can you find your neighbors in the latest CERT graduating class?*

# A Train Station in Del Mar?

By Dave Druker

The North County Transit District (NCTD) has approached the City of Del Mar and the 22nd Agricultural District (Fairgrounds) about the building of a temporary-seasonal rail stop by the Fairgrounds. It would be located due west of Southfair alongside the eastern passing track. The stop would be used for major events at the Fairgrounds, like opening day at the races, weekends and 4th of July during the County Fair, Street Scene, etc.

The Fairgrounds would need to shuttle people from the train stop to the Fairgrounds and NCTD would need to hold the train to ensure maximum ridership. The actual platform would cost about \$800,000 but there would need to be some improvements made to the NCTD right of way so that a bus could be used to pick up and drop off people at the train stop.

Before this train gets out of the station, Del Mar needs to understand the operations of this train stop, specifically how security will be provided, how much paving needs to be done, what type of temporary toilet facilities will be provided and removed, lighting, how buses will enter and exit Jimmy Durante Blvd. Once the operations plan is developed, Del Mar will then be able to weigh in as to whether we will accept such a platform.

*Dave Druker is Deputy Mayor of Del Mar.*



## 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

Call 792-7565 for more information or to reserve.

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

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

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

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

## Important Information

Avoid being a victim of Charity Fraud, call the IRS Hotline for Charities Information, 1-877-829-5500; Report spam emails to CAN-SPAM (spam@uce.gov). Check with the California Department of Corporations to verify the legitimacy of salespeople and companies before you invest: 1-866-275-2677; if you suspect Medicare Fraud, waste or abuse, call the U.S. Dept. of Health and Human Services Fraud Hotline 1-800-447-8477

## 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: 7:45-8:45am; 9-10am; on Friday only, low impact (with chair): 10-11am. Colleen Soto teacher. Classes begin 6/25; end 8/10. \$15. Register for fall classes beginning August 20th with San Dieguito Adult School (760) 753-7073 ext. 3418 or [www.sdadulthood.com](http://www.sdadulthood.com). Classes at Powerhouse start Sept. 4th and end November 2nd.

**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, noon 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, 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 (August 31, Sept. 28), 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 at 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 Vons on Mango and Ralphs shopping center in DM Highlands. See [www.dmcc.cc](http://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, Sept. 15, Oct. 13 to tour the San Dieguito Lagoon wetlands and restoration project. FREE. Call 858-674-2275, ext. 14 to reserve.

## Shared Housing and Rental Assistance

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 [www.dmcc.cc/shared-homeprovider.shtml](http://www.dmcc.cc/shared-homeprovider.shtml) or call DMCC, 858-792-7565 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 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 858-233-9105 for a recorded message listing current Shared Housing opportunities in Del Mar, or complete a Home Seeker Application at [www.dmcc.cc/shared-homeseecker.shtml](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 (858-792-7565) for information on qualifications and to obtain an application.

# Moving the Tracks – a First Down

By Jim Eckmann

It takes planning and effort to build a railroad. It takes even more planning and effort to move one, it seems. The notion of moving the rails took a complicated and important step forward in mid-May when Del Mar's Rail Transportation Advisory Committee (RTAC) hosted a public meeting of elected representatives from San Diego and the north coastal cities of Del Mar, Encinitas, Solana Beach, Carlsbad and Oceanside, to discuss requiring the county-wide planning agency, the San Diego Association of Governments (SANDAG), to study numerous issues relating to the existing rail-bed.

The May meeting was far from accidental. Councilmember Henry Abarbanel, one of the liaisons to RTAC, arranged individual sessions with the North-Coastal representatives and RTAC members (Henry also attended ALL the meetings), starting after last year's elections. Additionally, Don Billings of the Torrey Pines Community Planning Board arranged information meetings involving San Diego Councilmember Scott Peters and RTAC members. And members of RTAC met with SANDAG staff to discuss the rail issues. Councilmember David Druker, the other liaison to RTAC, recently became Chair of SANDAG's Transportation Committee. And that Committee just happens to be undertaking its Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) this year.

At the May meeting there was widespread agreement the RTP should address the following areas of concern to San Diego and to the north coastal cities:

**Passenger issues:** Including comparing projected

passenger increases on the existing route with potential I-5 and I-15 relocations

**Freight issues:** Including projected freight needs over the next two decades, especially the desirability of a direct freight route from southerly ports (such as Ensenada, B.C.) to the freight hub at Ontario (generally, up I-15)

**Economic and environmental issues:** Environmental impacts (in 14 categories) on coastal lagoons and coastal communities from the existing rail location (and also if double-tracked) and community and economic benefits of relocating the rails from the coastal route

In addition, the May meeting attendees unanimously agreed that RTAC's Resolution, precluding any further expenditures on the existing rail bed (including double-tracking) until comprehensive studies of the above areas are undertaken, should be presented to SANDAG. The bluff-stabilization efforts by the North County Transit District, long-since approved



and recently commenced in Del Mar, are not affected.

It's important to recall the "big dog" at the meeting, the City of San Diego, has a dominant voice at SANDAG, and the other North-Coastal cities as a bloc likewise have significant clout there. Councilmember Druker reported on July 9th to the City Council he will soon present the Resolution and the above study guidelines to SANDAG staff for inclusion in the 2007 RTP efforts. RTAC intends to confer regularly with SANDAG staff and monitor progress. The RTAC Resolution has no official status yet and constant vigilance and effort by the electorate with political leaders and government officials will be required indefinitely.

Football games are usually won by stringing together

first downs. A major first down occurred in Del Mar's Annex in mid-May. A lot more will be needed.

*Jim Eckmann is Vice-Chair of RTAC.*

We hope readers have noticed and taken advantage of the menus from local restaurants that have been inserted in recent issues. We are grateful to these restaurants for contributing \$500 each for including their menus. This helps us considerably in covering our increasing mailing costs. Please reward their community spirit by enjoying dinner with them as often as you can. Menus so far have come from Sbicca, Americana, En Fuego, Pacifica Del Mar and Epazote's.

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