

# Waiting for the Raptor

By Ed Mirsky

Instructions: Clear a suitable patch of dirt in the center of your yard away from the trees and bushes. Put up a variety of birdfeeders within the patch to attract different types of birds for your enjoyment throughout the year.

- Use any standard birdfeeder, and a standard budgerigar mix with added raw sunflower seeds. Or, if you like, you may make your own special food mix: mealworms, rolled oats, peanuts, a commercial seed mix, and crushed eggshells. Either way, you will attract a variety of little brown birds to your feeder, and the seeds that are kicked out onto the ground will attract doves (remember, not pigeons!).
- You may wish to get a thistle sock as a second feeder. Thistle socks are woven with a fine mesh that allows the small thistle seeds to peek through. The canary-yellow goldfinches cling to the sock and pick the seeds through the mesh. Goldfinches forage in small groups so expect an illuminated group of them at your feeder. They're a joy to watch.
- If you don't have fruit trees in your yard, you can attract fruit-eating birds by attaching a long weather-proof screw to a tree or post, and hanging fresh fruit from the screw.
- Try putting out a block of suet to attract the Nuttall's woodpeckers, which frequent Torrey Pine trees. You may make your own suet from lard, seeds, and peanut butter; but most people choose not to.

- Create a sand bath next to the area you cleared. Make it about three feet by three feet square. Ordinary yard sand is all that is needed. Birds love to take sand baths, and before you know it birds will be bathing in your yard. If you don't see the birds bathe, look for small cup-shaped indentations in the sand left by the birds as they wallow in the sand.
- Buy or make a birdbath. Be sure it has shallow sloping sides. Birds may drown in deep water if they are unable to get out of the bath.
- Create an area of brush. It's best if the brush is in a shady corner of the yard away from the house.

- Finally, a birdhouse is a particularly nice decorative feature for your yard. Whether you plan to build or buy a birdhouse, it should contain the features listed at the Cornell Laboratory of Ornithology's website: [www.birds.cornell.edu/birdhouse/resources/features](http://www.birds.cornell.edu/birdhouse/resources/features).

Now be patient. Soon you will hear red-shouldered hawks give their key-ah, key-ah, key-ah call from the tops of Torrey Pine trees. You will watch in awe as Cooper's hawks soar above the trees calling cac-cac-cac-cac as an entourage of smaller birds with rapidly beating wings follow behind; barely able to keep up. At night, you will hear the call of great-horned owls and the eerie screech of barn owls as they scan the ground for mice and rats. And if you're

extremely lucky, you will witness a hawk zip through your yard, its talons at the ready.

*Ed Mirsky lives on Hoska Drive.*



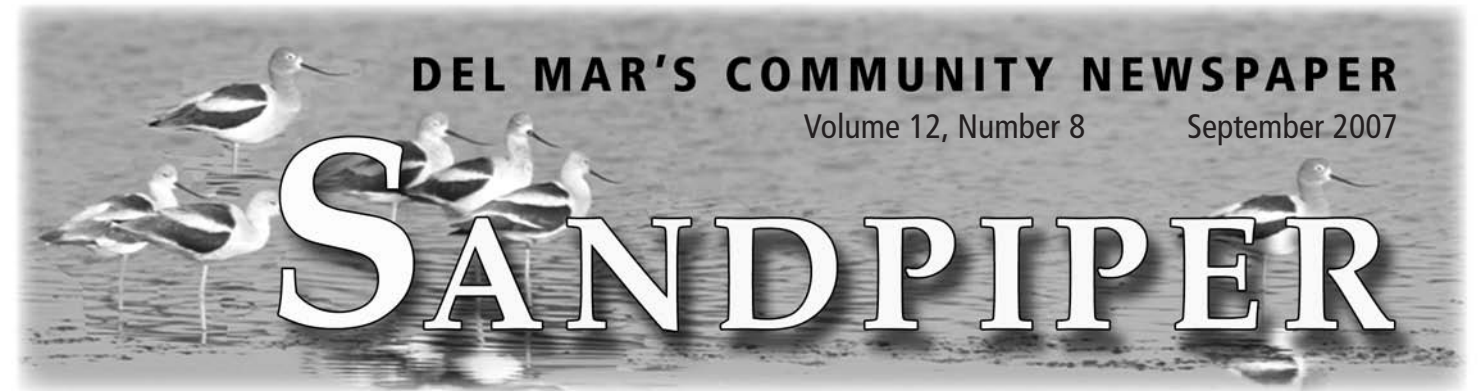
*Cooper's hawk. Photo courtesy of Patrick Williams.*



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## Milestones, Challenges at Shores Site

By John Graybill

After years of countless talks, strained relations, and many failed negotiations, the city of Del Mar (City) and the Del Mar Union School District (DMUSD) have finally reached an



agreement for the City to acquire the 5.3-acre Shores School and park property on 9th Street for \$8.5 million. This is a significant milestone in the history of Del Mar, and is an outstanding accomplishment for our community. It follows the theme that previous town leaders established years ago to preserve and protect for our children and their families the treasures in Del Mar: Powerhouse Park, Seagrove Park, Del Mar Library, Crest Canyon, etc.

Price was the key issue preventing the parties from coming to an agreement over the past four years. Superintendent Tom Bishop negotiated tirelessly that the property was worth up to five times the City's estimates, but that value was based on up-zoning the property to allow residential and/or commercial development. After the school-board election last November, there seemed to be a new attitude toward breaking this impasse, recognizing that Del Mar firmly intended to maintain the current Public-Facilities zoning. DMUSD Board President, Annette Easton, said recently that the agreed-upon price was based upon a fair-market-value appraisal under the current zoning, which specifies public use only.

The City's negotiating team was Crystal Crawford and Carl Hilliard. This was the first major project they worked on together. Both say they developed a great respect for each other's talents and were impressed how effectively they functioned as a team during the protracted negotiations. It was obvious to observers that they put

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Come join the community in wishing  
**Lauraine Brekke-Esparza**  
a very happy retirement.

Del Mar Powerhouse  
September 18, 4-7 pm.

## Also In This Issue:



Read about the past and future of the Torrey Pines Bridge on page 4.



Retail remains a vexed issue at L'Auberge, see page 2.



Our Lifeguards extend their reach to include the DMVA Surf & Art Festival, see page 7.



## An Empty Retail Wagon

Guest Editorial by Sam Borgese

Starting and maintaining a small retail business in the Del Mar Village requires equal measures of dedication and sustainability. Although the high tourist season is a little more vibrant, and there are over 250,000 new residents on the opposite side of the interstate to draw to local businesses, nonetheless being a retailer in Del Mar remains just as challenging today as it was 30 years ago.

Parking is a bigger issue than it was 30 years ago. The four lanes of Camino del Mar have become the major pass-through for residents of the cities north of Del Mar. I-5 has become the nightmare of the horrific traffic in the Greater Los Angeles area that was often projected and hoped would never materialize in San Diego.

When you consider all of these challenges, it can be dispiriting, if you have weathered these in addition to the normal challenges of being a successful small business owner, to have your store lease expire without an option to relocate your business in another nearby location.

This is happening to village resident Jean Sabourin and her La Boutique on the L'Auberge Hotel property along 15th Street.

The City Council and the Del Mar Village Association (DMVA) face a difficult choice: support the much-needed renovation of L'Auberge and its obvious valuable revenue to the City, or challenge the hotel plans to protect retail businesses such as La Boutique. This single loss along with the other retail space in the same building will diminish an already small amount of retail (shops, restaurants, etc.) necessary to have the critical mass to support a sustainable retail environment.



The City Council and DMVA can seize the opportunity to be more creative in finding a way to work with L'Auberge to accommodate the retail it is displacing by the planned spa expansion. If not the City Council, then such an opportunity certainly fits the charter of the DMVA. DMVA is making a strong effort to market Del Mar as a place for village residents, area residents and visitors to shop. It is a waste of those marketing efforts and funding if the number of retailers declines instead of increasing.

DMVA should quickly form a sub-committee to work directly with displaced retailers in cases such as La Boutique by advocating and assisting them in finding a new suitable location in the village.

It is a retailing maxim that "you can't sell out of an empty wagon," and the decision by the City and DMVA to not make every possible effort to avoid the loss of retail businesses places Del Mar on the path to being an empty retail wagon.

*Sam Borgese is a resident of Del Mar.*

## Help Celebrate Our Coast

COASTWEEKS is a three-week celebration of our coast and waterways, taking place September 15 through October 7. The California Coastal Commission has created an online calendar of events which you can find linked from [www.coastforyou.org](http://www.coastforyou.org), or directly at [www.coastal.ca.gov/publiced/coastweeks/coastweeks.html](http://www.coastal.ca.gov/publiced/coastweeks/coastweeks.html).

There are nearly 200 events going on throughout the state, including such varied activities as pier-fishing lessons, condor viewing, an interfaith sandcastle building contest, mud snail eradication, kayaking trips, and much more. COASTWEEKS starts with California Coastal Cleanup Day on September 15, a massive volunteer effort with 50,000 Californians working to clean up our environment.

Check out the calendar and find an event in your area. It's just that easy to get out there and enjoy our coast!

## Sales Tax Trends

By Bud Emerson

Del Mar's fiscal challenge hinges partly on our relatively flat sales-tax revenue. Sales tax is one of our top three sources of revenue. The Council has adopted a retail overlay zone for downtown in an effort to support the revitalization effort. The Sandpiper will try to track quarterly sales tax and hotel transit occupancy tax (TOT)

revenue so citizens can have a basic factual scorecard.

In looking at these figures, please note that quarter-to-quarter sales tax receipts only increased 1% over 2005, which is less than inflation. Another item of note is to compare food products (restaurants) showing systematic increases with general retail, which shows systematic decreases. TOT reflects the systematic increases in tax paid by tourists for hotel rooms. The pattern seems clear: restaurants and hotels are doing reasonably well, while our small shops are struggling.

*Bud Emerson lives on Klish Way.*

Sales Tax Category	2006				2005			
	4th Qtr	3rd Qtr	2nd Qtr	1st Qtr	4th Qtr	3rd Qtr	2nd Qtr	1st Qtr
Food Products	147,028	348,631	215,379	138,187	135,444	306,317	200,257	122,774
General Retail	74,392	198,123	92,126	61,212	81,690	230,198	105,706	71,567
Transportation	23,410	22,066	32,541	61,081	22,343	17,036	37,330	38,707
Miscellaneous	3,645	8,715	22,203	3,163	6,613	9,398	23,867	2,451
Business to Business	7,678	8,658	10,404	7,472	12,024	10,574	9,037	6,691
Construction	8,169	1,987	5,669	2,619	3,610	8,385	3,618	3,513
<b>Total by Quarter</b>	<b>264,322</b>	<b>588,180</b>	<b>378,322</b>	<b>273,734</b>	<b>261,724</b>	<b>581,908</b>	<b>379,815</b>	<b>245,703</b>

## Del Mar Faces Wi-Fi Hurdles

By Terry Sinnott

The cities of Del Mar, Solana Beach, plus the 22nd District Agricultural Association, have been working together on a project to provide local wireless connection capabilities. A joint steering committee solicited proposals from the telecommunications industry. Go Networks, and Azulstar, were selected as finalists to be considered for the project.

Surf & Turf Wireless is proposed to be an "open network" where one company owns, installs and operates the network, and then sells wholesale network access to multiple internet service providers. There would be no cost to the cities of Del Mar or Solana Beach, or to the Fairgrounds. In return for being able to install their equipment in public areas, the Wi-Fi provider pays each jurisdiction an annual fee. The Surf & Turf Wireless system would provide at least two levels of service. One "Basic Access" level of service would be free. A series of faster "Premium Services" would be offered at various rates that would be charged to the end-user.

On August 7, the two companies made presentations to a panel of Del Mar community leaders, including members of the City Council, City Staff and the Communications and Technology Advisory Committee. Both Go Networks and Azulstar described how the changing competitive industry for internet access has forced them to modify their business-model assumptions. Wi-Fi providers are finding that it is more expensive than expected to build the backbone connections from the transmitter/receivers on the grid

system to the Internet. They have also found that the number of people signing up for Wi-Fi service has not been as large as expected.

In their proposals, both companies presented some stipulations or requirements that they need to make their participation in the Surf & Turf Wireless project a success. These have become "sticking points" or hurdles that are causing the project to take a slow, cautious approach. Here are two of the most significant hurdles:

- First, the companies would like each City and the Fairgrounds to become an "anchor tenant" customer, requiring present and future IT applications to go through the new wireless network. This guarantees the provider a certain level of revenue. But cities like Del Mar have no additional budget available to spend on technology and therefore may not be able to be an "anchor tenant".
- Second, both companies presented different implementation scenarios. Go Networks could not guarantee that the system would be built out into the residential areas. Azulstar was not willing to build a small "proof of concept" area to demonstrate the benefits of the system to businesses owners and residents. These implementation issues are serious hurdles that the Steering Committee feels must be resolved.

The Wi-Fi Steering Committee is planning to meet with each of the two finalists and try to overcome these hurdles. If they cannot be resolved, it is likely that the two-year effort to implement a Wi-Fi system in Del Mar, Solana Beach, and the Fairgrounds will have to come to an end.

*Terry Sinnott is a resident of Del Mar.*

DEL MAR'S COMMUNITY NEWSPAPER

# SANDPIPER

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

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

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



## Preserving an Elegant Landmark

### “Worst Bridge in the County” Slur Unwarranted

By Wayne Dernetz

Local residents and visitors alike admire the structural beauty of our North Torrey Pines Bridge and the harmonious way it blends with the coastline overlooking Peñasquitos Lagoon and Torrey Pines Reserve. Built in 1933 by CalTrans, today our bridge is both a symbol of Del Mar’s many charms and an inspiration to local artists. Few of California’s coastal bridges can match it for the efficiency, economy and elegance of its simple design.



Following last month’s bridge collapse in Minneapolis, local media questioned the safety of our bridge. Newspaper headlines called it “the worst bridge in the County” because of its “structurally deficient” rating under federal bridge standards. But State and City officials reassured the public that our bridge remains safe for general use.

According to CalTrans, the federal bridge rating system is used to determine eligibility for federal assistance for repairs or maintenance. A rating “structurally deficient” does not mean the bridge is unsafe. Currently 1,620 bridges in California are “structurally deficient;” 95 percent of these ratings result from non-critical conditions such as cracked pavement or flaked paint. The remaining 5 percent may need various structural repairs as determined by individual engineering evaluations.

Our bridge falls in the latter group because it lacks seismic retrofitting and suffers from years of deferred maintenance of the deck paving and structure. But State bridge inspectors have determined there is no danger of sudden failure or collapse except, possibly, in a major earthquake.

Divided jurisdiction between San Diego and Del Mar may account for the years of neglect. Our bridge lies astride the political boundary between the two cities. The northern two-thirds portion is in Del Mar, the remainder in San Diego.

In 1998, San Diego proposed we jointly remove our bridge and replace it with a new four-lane structure. Del Mar rejected that proposal because it conflicted with

the Circulation Element of our Community Plan and Del Mar believed this beautiful and historically important bridge should be preserved. Del Mar favored repairing and retrofitting the bridge under a proposal by Frieder Seible, a renowned expert on bridge safety and seismic retrofitting and Dean of UCSD’s Jacobs School of Engineering.

Unable to reconcile their differences, the two cities agreed that Del Mar should exercise full jurisdiction over the repair or replacement of the Bridge. A single jurisdiction would have better opportunity to obtain necessary State and federal funding.

In 2001 Del Mar hired a leading San Diego structural bridge and construction management company to develop plans and help coordinate the project. Del Mar set aside \$1.2 million in special use funds for this purpose. There has been substantial progress. Last month CalTrans’ San Diego staff endorsed Del Mar’s plan for retrofitting. But before State and federal funding is assured, officials in both Sacramento and Washington, D.C. must approve the repair and retrofit alternative over the replacement alternative.

According to David Scherer, Del Mar’s Public Works Director, cost estimates for both alternatives are equivalent – about \$30 million. He adds that these estimates may change after State and federal review.

Under the 1972 Highway Bridge Program (HBP) approved by Congress, the federal government entered into partnership with state and local governments to provide financial assistance for replacement, repair and systematic maintenance of the nation’s 600,000 bridges. The HBP imposes strict national safety and maintenance standards and requires bridge inspections every two years. Caltrans is responsible for all California bridge inspections and oversees projects receiving State or federal assistance. Congress appropriates nearly \$4.5 billion annually for this program and recently raised the federal matching portion to 88.5 percent of construction costs.

Last year California voters approved Proposition 1B authorizing State bonds for needed infrastructure improvements. The Legislature set aside \$125 million of these bonds to pay on a “first come, first served” basis the 11.5 percent local matching share for local bridge projects pending under the HBP. There are 246 such projects statewide and our bridge is among them. Del Mar hopes these State and HBP funds will provide full funding for the bridge project.

Still, several years are needed to finish the project. Final approval in Sacramento and Washington awaits completion of the environmental review. This could take up to two years if Del Mar’s plan to repair and retrofit the bridge is not approved according to David Scherer. Completion of construction work requires another two to three years.

Thus far, the City has laid an excellent foundation for success. Final approval and full funding are within reach. Let’s all get behind the City’s efforts and support our bridge!

*Wayne Dernetz is a resident of Del Mar.*

## Making a Park Place

By Art Olson

I’m as concerned as anyone about the future of the “public/private” outdoor space on the L’Auberge property at the heart of our village. So, as any respectable Del Marian would do, I sought the wisdom of a consultant. Of course I sought the best – Mr. Snow’s appearances on “Good Morning America” assured his credentials. Unfortunately, his time/travel down to Del Mar was beyond my budget, so I had to trek up to Mt. Olympus, WA for my 15 minutes of enlightenment. The visit only lasted one minute, but he billed me for all 15, and it was worth it. It actually took him only three words: “Make a place”, but he extended his advice by saying “In other words, you need place making.”

Pondering these words on my trip back to Del Mar, I realized their wisdom and envisioned a way forward. Places I had visited flooded my mind and I tried each of them on at the corner of 15th and Camino Del Mar. Perhaps a Times Square? We already have the clock. We could encourage hot-dog and wristwatch vendors and turn that corner into a hub of public commercial activity. A Jumbo-tron billboard could orient the tourists and advertise our restaurants, shops, and nail salons. On New Year’s Eve we could all gather and watch the beach ball drop from the Rotary Club Clock at midnight.

Or, perhaps we should make a place more akin to London’s Hyde Park. We could place soapboxes and benches on the large green expanse, and encourage free and open expression. Although it may siphon away some of the activity at City Council meetings, it could become the place of a new town activism. We locals could rant about the latest Del Mar issues to the assembled crowds. It would become a place of mass public rallies. I can envision them now – “Take back the Beach,” “Citizens for a Del Mar Gas Station” or “Stop the Chicanery on Crest.” And, of course we could have lively election debates out in the bright Del Mar sunshine.

## Life on the Road: Crest Road

By Rich Jamison

Many of us who live on Crest Road, and especially those of us who walk there regularly, are so cognizant of its traffic issues that we sometimes fail to recognize that our neighbors may not be as well versed in the details of the traffic-calming project being implemented by the City. The two main public-safety issues on Crest, excessive vehicular speed and volume, have different causative factors. Excessive volume is largely driven by regional circulation deficiencies. Crest Road is being asked to serve a function in the regional circulation network that it was never designed for nor intended to serve. Excessive speed is a 24-hour-a-day problem that is attributable to a lack of driving manners. What makes these problems especially acute is that Crest Road is intended to be a pedestrian and scenic corridor, which puts the various users of this narrow road in direct conflict.



Or, we could be even more radical and turn it into a “People’s Park.” While my Berkeley days harken back to the bad along with the good, the ideal of a park for the people could drive that busy corner in yet other directions. Who knows, maybe a Community Connections drum circle would form. Or perhaps a People’s Garden where residents would plant and share flowers, vegetables and advice. There could even be a veggie stand and a pick-it-yourself-fruit business to help support it. On the other hand, I personally like the idea of a Community Open-air Spa, with mud baths for all. We could gather together to rub each other’s shoulders to remove the stress of trying to make a place.

*Art Olson is a resident of Del Mar.*



In early 2005, the City Council adopted the goal of improving traffic safety on Crest Road. Workshops attracted active public participation. With the public input received at the workshops, the city’s traffic consultant developed recommendations for mitigating the traffic safety problems in consultation with the relevant City

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## Shores Site

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their past political differences aside and focused on this once-in-a-lifetime opportunity for the community. Crawford said, "It was a long, arduous process. This was a deal where we were herding lots of cats, and frankly I was never sure if we'd get them all in the corral." Hilliard said, "The deal itself is an important achievement, but DMUSD is going forward with their quiet-title action during the escrow period. That means the fund-raising efforts need to be successful in the next six months."

The \$8.5 million price was established assuming all of the money would be raised by Friends of Del Mar Parks (a committee of the Del Mar Foundation) and the Winston School. Under the terms of the agreement, several proof-of-funds milestones must be reached and escrow must close in six months (February 28, 2008). \$2.8 million must be deposited into escrow by October 31 and an additional \$1.45 million by January 28. DMUSD may terminate the sale agreement if the required amounts of money are not deposited. The Friends and the Winston School are optimistic that the funds will be raised and are pleased that about half of the \$8.5 million has already been soft-pledged.

The Winston School has occupied the Shores School facilities for 19 years. It successfully educates college-bound children with learning differences and makes their 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. The City's Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with Winston School requires:

- Winston will raise 35-50% of the purchase price as pre-paid rent for a 55-year lease.
- Winston will own the buildings (but not the land) and will lease approximately the area it currently occupies on the site.
- Winston accepts the premises in an "as is" condition. It is responsible for all maintenance to the premises including asbestos removal, ADA, Title 24 regs, etc. Winston indemnifies and holds City harmless for all claims.
- Winston will make a good-faith offer to renegotiate a new 55-year lease after Winston builds new buildings.
- Winston must take the necessary steps to begin building a new campus within 10 years.
- Winston gets credit for 100% of the funds raised for the Winston School and 50% of any donations made to the project in general, all of which is credited as prepaid rent.
- Any donor may specifically designate the money go to open space/parks only or to Winston School only.
- Rent is fixed at about the current level in real terms (\$197,000); increases after that fund is exhausted will be for inflation based on the CPI after the prepaid rent is exhausted.



- Winston is required to rebuild on the site within the law and with City approval.
- Winston agrees to allow for limited joint-use of its facilities with the City subject to availability; the City and Winston will share parking and park facilities.
- The City can terminate the MOU if it can't raise the money or if Winston can't raise 35% of the funds needed. Winston can terminate or renegotiate if it is asked to contribute more than 50%.

The Shores property contains the only school, grassy playing fields, and last available open space in the heart of Del Mar's village. It is the founding field of Del Mar Little League and the place where many happy memories were formed for generations of students and parents, athletes, picnickers, dog owners, families, and residents.

The deal pleases Elise Kerckhoff, a long-time Del Mar resident and member of the family who developed Del Mar between 1906 and 1948 through the South Coast Land Company and its successors with partners like Col. Ed Fletcher, railroad magnate Henry Huntington, and Standard Oil of California founder Charles Canfield. "Sixty-one years ago, my aunt conveyed the Shores property to the school district under the condition that it could be used for 'school purposes only' and not for residential or commercial development. The City and Del Mar community will be able to honor this legacy and make history by making the Shores School and park another treasured community resource like the historic Powerhouse, Library and Powerhouse Park."

The Del Mar Foundation and the Winston School are now accepting pledges and contributions. These can be in the form of cash, appreciated assets like stocks and real estate, or other forms of planned giving. In consultation with their tax advisors, some donors are taking advantage of the current exemption that allows those over 70 years of age to contribute up to \$100,000 from individual retirement accounts (IRAs) to charity without triggering tax penalties if done by December 31, 2007. All contributions are tax-deductible and benefit our children, community, schools, and future generations. Naming opportunities are available. For further information, please go to the website of the Friends of Del Mar Parks, [www.delmarparks.org](http://www.delmarparks.org), and sign up as a supporter. You can also email us directly at [delmarparks@delmarfoundation.org](mailto:delmarparks@delmarfoundation.org).

*John Graybill is a co-founder of the Friends of Del Mar Parks.*

## Remembrance of PSA 182

By Jim Woodhead

On Tuesday morning, September 26, 1978, the Union Tribune carried a startling photo showing a crippled airliner on fire. It was taken of PSA 182 just four seconds before its 135 passengers and crewmembers lost their lives. Two pilots of another smaller aircraft perished as well. I am still stunned by the photo and relive that morning as if it were today.

In 1967 I had joined an unusually close-knit Pacific Southwest Airlines family of mostly San Diego-based managers, pilots, flight attendants, passenger service agents and mechanics. By that time, PSA had grown to offer service to most major West Coast cities.

To provide early morning flight service, crews had to overnight in various cities. After a weekend schedule, the layover crews usually returned to Los Angeles, where they turned their equipment over to fresh crews and deadheaded to San Diego as passengers – on Flight 182. The one exception was the Stockton overnight crew who continued to San Diego on their own airplane.

On this Monday, it was an unusually clear day along the entire coast of California. Captain Jim McFeron and his crew departed Sacramento on time with Flight 182 for Los Angeles and San Diego. Meanwhile in San Francisco, Captain Bill Jolly was delayed when his tow bar snapped during his gate departure. His airplane would arrive in LAX too late to enable his crew to catch a ride on Flight 182.

PSA 182 with 37 employees, including 25 crew members and 98 passengers, now left LAX for a short flight to San Diego. Moments later, the Stockton overnight aircraft that would also continue to SAN came through LAX. They would arrange to carry the San Francisco flight crew that had arrived late. I was the Captain of that Stockton flight –



the one flight not scheduled to continue on the ill-fated 182.

As we approached San Diego, the uncommon visibility allowed us to see a column of black smoke developing in the Balboa Park area. Could it be another museum fire set by an arsonist? Helicopters and emergency vehicles had just converged on the scene. On final approach to Runway 9, I asked the tower a second time about the busy activity. The chilling, unforgettable, answer finally came, "Sir, PSA 182 is down." Except for perfunctory checklist responses, there was silence in our flight station. Captain Jolly who had missed his ride on 182 was in my cockpit jump seat and now realized his life had been spared by that broken tow bar.

Upon landing, we made our way to a somber PSA crew lounge. I was half way to Del Mar before I could find a pay phone to call home. The initial television reports of the crash were so unclear that my wife, Judy, was not sure whether she would see me again. Despite her relief and my good fortune, the Woodhead family, our close-knit PSA family and the victims' families would never be the same.

*Jim Woodhead is a resident of Del Mar.*

## Reaching Out Beyond the Beach

By Jonathan Edelbrock

After over 15 years of working for the Del Mar Lifeguard Department, I still find it difficult to articulate the many functions our department serves to the community.

During my tenure, our role in serving the community has blossomed far beyond our main function of preserving the right to "Safe Fun in the Sun". It may be a stretch to say that the department as a whole has re-invented itself; however, we certainly have, almost transparently, replaced our red trunks and what they represent into a more chameleon-like uniform.

While protecting the beaches, serving our residents and visitors, and maintaining our streets and parks is a full-time responsibility in its own right, we have extended our reach a whole lot further.

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*A resident of Becky's House gives thanks.*



## Think Outside the Pot

By Mary Friestedt

Open any house or garden magazine these days and chances are you'll see an article on succulents in containers. After all, succulents are super easy to grow, can be propagated from cuttings, and need little water. But you can have even more fun with these beauties if you think of found objects to pot them in. In my own garden, the succulents that get the most positive comments are the ones growing in unusual containers. Think of old treasures from your kitchen, bathroom, tool shed, or the trash. Let's get started!

The first object I ever used for plants was an old wooden chair that was left on the street on garbage day. I wasted no time loading it in the back of my car, my heart pounding with joy. The seat was missing, so I took an old wooden box (with holes drilled in the bottom for drainage), set it on top of the chair, and filled it with herbs. When the herbs started languishing from lack of attention, I refilled the box with succulents, and now the chair is a cheery greeter by the front door.

Old baking items are my favorites for filling with



succulents. Think cupcake pans, loaf pans, angel food cake pans, sieves, or even a flour sifter. Be sure to punch holes in the bottom of your containers for drainage, and fill with a well-drained soil like cactus mix. Then get some cuttings from your friends or neighbors, poke them in the dirt, and water once a week. You'll be amazed at how quickly they take off. The plants look particularly stunning when their pots begin to rust and contrast with the foliage. If you have an item that will not easily hold soil, think of using tillandsias (also called air plants). Tillandsias look great in a rusted flour sifter or between the tines of an old rake.

Wooden coke boxes are great for succulents. Place a 2-inch plastic potted succulent in each square, and voila! Instant charm.

The beauty of using found objects for succulents is that they usually cost nothing and yet bring incredible joy. So keep your eyes open and start looking for the unusual pot to fill. My next project is to nest succulents in an old dog bed. I also want to fill the cast-iron pan in which my mother used to prepare her Sunday pot roast. Its bottom is too thick to drill holes in, so I will fill it with a layer of pebbles before adding the cactus mix to allow for drainage. I will water it seldom.

Happy potting!

Mary Friestedt is a resident of Del Mar.

## Sips and Tidbits

### Recommendations for Fine Local Dining

By Wayne and Liz Dernetz

J. Taylor's at L'Auberge Del Mar anticipates closing for renovations in mid-November—still plenty of time to enjoy the fine selection of ecologically sustainable meats and seafood entrees, discounted 20% for residents of Del Mar (show proof). Try the wild salmon while it's still available. For the adventuresome we suggest Paul McCabe's Tasting Menu with a complete four-course dinner created from the freshest local ingredients...a bargain at \$70, or \$90 with the Chef's favorite wine pairings, again discounted for residents. J. Taylor's has recently received Wine Spectator's 2006 award for their spectacular wine list featuring both New and Old World wines. And remember "Jazz in the Lobby" Fridays and Saturdays from 7:30 to 10:30 pm. Phone 755-4940.

If you haven't tried epaZote lately, at the top of the Plaza,

you may be surprised at its 2006 transformation into a contemporary steakhouse with a commanding ocean view. The menu features a large selection of certified premium sterling-silver beef steaks. The bar reopened this May after a complete renovation, as the sleek, sophisticated Z Ocean Bar. The famous – and generous – Margarita Shakers are still available while specialty martinis are also in favor. Enjoy "happy hour" 4–7 pm and discounted bar-menu food 4–6 pm. On Wednesdays, wine (full or half bottle) is half-price. Phone 259-9966.

John Wingate, owner of En Fuego Cantina and Grill, welcomes returning locals with a new fall lineup of Seasonal Specials but promises the popular Seafood Enchiladas and other favorites are still available. Al fresco dining and south-of-the-border ambience make for a delightful lunch or dinner experience. "Happy hour" is 4:30 to 6:30 pm daily; enjoy "Tuesday Night Tacos" from 4:30 pm for a wide selection of tacos at special prices or "Wine Wednesday" for 20%-50% off selected wines. Phone: 792-6551.

Wayne and Liz Dernetz are residents of Del Mar.

## September Community Calendar

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

**Del Mar Art Center Gallery Reception:** Sunday, September 2, 2–5pm, Del Mar Art Center Gallery. Featured artist Takashi Ijichi teaches Sumi-E painting at SD Community College, founded Taka Sumi-E Society, conducts art trips to Japan, and coordinates the Balboa Park Art Show annually. The public is invited and refreshments will be available.

**Friends of Del Mar Library Board Meeting:** Wednesday, September 5, 4pm, Del Mar Library.

**Last Day of the Races at En Fuego:** Wednesday, September 5, 6pm–9pm, En Fuego Cantina and Grill. Celebrate the closing of race season with appetizers and cash bar as you visit with neighbors and friends.

**First Thursday:** Thursday, Sept. 6, at the Powerhouse Community Center: the Cultural Arts Committee of the Del Mar Foundation presents "Javid", flamenco music and dance. Wine social starts at 6:30pm, performance at 7pm. (sold out – attendance by subscription only).

**Del Mar Community Connections Monthly Board Meeting:** Saturday, September 8, 9am, City Hall Annex. The meeting is open to the public.

**Del Mar Television Foundation Board Meeting:** Monday, September 10, 8:30am, Del Mar TV Foundation Studios. Monthly meeting is to review/approve grants and business.

**City Council Meetings:** Monday, September 10 and Monday, September 24, 6pm, Del Mar TV Station.

**Preschool Spanish/English Storytime:** Tuesday, September 11, 10:30am, Del Mar Library.

**DM Planning Commission:** Tuesday, September 11, 6pm, Del Mar TV Station.

**Cultural Arts Committee:** Wednesday, September 12, 8:30am, Powerhouse Community Center on the balcony. The public is welcome to attend.

**DMVA Promotion Committee:** Wednesday, September 12, 9am, Del Mar TV Studio.

**Del Mar Foundation Board Meeting:** Thursday, September 13, 8:30am, City Hall Annex. All interested parties are welcome to attend.

**Producer's Showcase:** Thursday, September 13, 6pm, Del Mar TV Studio. The purpose is to hone skills and develop programs of interest to local viewers.

**DMVA Design Committee:** Friday, September 14 and September 28, 9am, City Hall Annex.

**Twilight Concert (season finale) featuring Left4Dead:** Sunday, September 16, 5pm, Powerhouse Park. Enjoy lemon cake while joining us in wishing the Del Mar Foundation a Happy 25th Birthday. Free concert, no reservations necessary; raffle benefits DMF grant programs (valuable prizes donated by local businesses). Please note change of day, and arrive early for picnic space!

**Del Mar Arts Center Board Meeting:** Monday, September 17, 6:30pm, Del Mar Arts Center.

**Del Mar Historical Society Monthly Meeting:** Tuesday, September 18, 7pm, City Hall Annex. The public is welcome to attend the monthly meeting.

**Del Mar Television Foundation Producer's Meeting:** Wednesday, September 19, 6:30pm, Del Mar TV Studio. The monthly meeting and networking is open to those interested in meeting others to develop programs at DMTV.

**Friends of the Powerhouse Board Meeting:** Wednesday, September 19, 9am, Jakes. The monthly meeting is open to the public.

**DMCC Harvest Moon Fest Fundraiser:** Thursday, September 20, 5:30pm–9:30pm, Powerhouse Community Center. Enjoy dinner, music, dancing, silent auction and live auction. For reservations, call: 792-7565.

**DMVA Economic Restructuring Committee:** Wednesday, September 26, 9am, L'Auberge Del Mar Resort and Spa lobby.

**Design Review Board (DRB):** Wednesday, September 26, 6pm, Del Mar TV Station.

**DMVA Board of Directors Meeting:** Thursday, September 27, 8am, City Hall Annex.

**Rose Society Monthly Meeting:** Thursday, September 27, 6:30–8:30pm, Powerhouse Community Center. Chris Greenwood will speak on new roses for 2008.

**Elder Legal Services:** Friday, September 28, 9am to 1pm, DMCC office at City Hall Annex. Appointments for senior residents of City of Del Mar: 858-792-7565.

*Please submit calendar items for the October edition of the Sandpiper to Liz at (ldernetz@pacbell.net) no later than Monday, September 17, 2007. Thank you!*

## Beyond the Beach

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We've augmented our dedication to a safe beach through hundreds of hours of educational outreach to schools in Del Mar and neighboring communities. Every spring we give many presentations to local elementary schools, Boys and Girls Scout troops, and private parties. With the support of our non-profit Del Mar Lifeguard Association and the Del Mar Foundation, we have created multiple videos as well as educational coloring books for the younger children.

Beyond the beach, the reach of our department is most apparent in our increasing role working with many of our local non-profit groups and their community-serving endeavors. Our employees are often involved in all phases of many of our community events including the Del Mar Art Stroll, Holidays in the Village, Powerhouse Paddle and Swim, Del Mar Foundation Concerts in the

Park, First Thursdays at the Powerhouse, and the first annual DMVA Surf and Art Festival.

Recently, employees of our lifeguard department hosted a group from Becky's House, a temporary housing facility for battered women and their children. With the help of the Del Mar Thoroughbred Club, Poseidon Restaurant, and Rusty Del Mar, we were able to provide transportation, lunch, surfing, and a positive day at the beach for the group. The event was full of smiles – both on the faces of the children and the seven individuals from our department who volunteered to make the event a success.

After years of serving our community, most of us have come to the conclusion that it's not just another day at the beach. With each and every day our staff is called upon to help with the unexpected – all the while keeping our eyes on the water.

*Jon Edelbrock is a Community Services and Lifeguard Sergeant, City of Del Mar, Community Services Department.*



## Sarah!

By Jerry Finnell



Sarah with grandson Kit.

**D**edicated. Tenacious. Smart. Compassionate. Charming. Selfless. These are words used by her colleagues to describe Sarah Dubin-Vaughn, who retired from the Presidency of Del Mar Community Connections (DMCC) in July 2007.

Sarah became involved with DMCC not long after the original organizing meetings. A member of the social services committee, Sarah was in on the

beginning of many DMCC programs in both conception and execution.

She was the first leader, guardian and champion of the Volunteer Driver program that connects community volunteers with people needing rides to medical appointments. Asked what she enjoys most about DMCC, she responded: "I love driving people to appointments and getting to know them. The program is still my favorite."

Sarah served as President of DMCC in 2003-05 and 2006-07. She has proven to be a leader with broad vision, high standards, and a warm heart. Sarah has maintained the tradition of insisting on the highest standards for the organization – really understanding what community members need and assuring that they get appropriate, effective and trustworthy services.

Sarah is succeeded as President by Shirley King, who says: "From the beginning, Sarah has helped to keep the organization centered on a clear vision of community service. She used a high level of judgment to assure the programmatic quality so essential to maintaining community trust."

Many of her colleagues also cite Sarah's commitment to making things happen, not only through her leadership, but also her willingness to work long hours, filling in for office staff, writing policies, schlepping supplies to neighborhood coffees, and generally doing what Shirley calls "the mop and pail kind of thing."

One of the most memorable instances of Sarah's engagement occurred in conjunction with a community end-of-summer picnic. She helped to conceive and organize a pet parade and cheerfully carried her ribbon-bedecked 60-year-old tortoise along the route.

It was my privilege and my pleasure to work alongside Sarah Dubin-Vaughn in Del Mar Community Connections.

*Jerry Finnell is DMCC Treasurer Emeritus.*

## Go Take a Hike!

Join the San Dieguito River Valley Conservancy and REI to help remove non-native vegetation and debris along one of the newest segments of the San Dieguito River Park's Coast-to-Crest Trail as we celebrate the 23rd Annual California Coastal Clean-Up Day. Meet at the San Dieguito Lagoon at Del Mar Fairgrounds, Saturday, September 15, 9am-12 noon. Bring water, sun protection and wear sturdy, closed-toed shoes. Visit [www.cleanupday.org](http://www.cleanupday.org) for more information and to register.

significant adverse impacts on other local streets.

Additional traffic counts will be taken this summer, with the City Council expected to consider the permanent installation of the chokers this fall. When construction drawings are prepared for the chokers, provisions for pedestrian access through (or behind) the chokers will be made, and the Fire Department will again review the project for compliance with its safety requirements. The permanent chokers are to be landscaped, a significant improvement in their appearance and effectiveness over the temporary installations.

This is a vexing long-term problem, and no one is naive enough to believe that it has been solved. Many residents on Crest Road still prefer a more radical approach. But it is hard to argue based on the traffic count data that progress has not been made. And for that I am truly grateful.

*Rich Jamison is a resident of Del Mar.*



Del Mar Community Connections

## DMCC Special Events and Activities

Call 792-7565 for more information or to reserve.

**Thursday, September 20:** Annual Fundraiser Fest. At the Powerhouse, 5:30 to 9:30pm. Harvest Moon buffet dinner, live music, auctions, dancing. Tickets \$100/person. Come, have a good time, and do good for DMCC.

**Tuesday, October 3:** Flu and pneumonia vaccinations, City Hall Annex, 9am to 3pm. Reservations required.

## DMCC Ongoing Events

**Computer tutoring for seniors:** FREE! In partnership with Casa di Amistad and the Solana Beach Senior Center, DMCC offers computer tutoring plus use of 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:** At the Powerhouse; Colleen Soto – teacher. Register at San Dieguito Adult School (760) 753-7073 ext. 3418 or [www.sdadulted.com](http://www.sdadulted.com). Three classes at the Powerhouse start Sept. 4; end November 2. Tues. & Thurs. 8am, 9am or 10am for low-impact and chair support. \$15.

**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:** 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 at the same time and for the same price. This class is taught by a teacher trained and certified by the Arthritis Foundation.

## 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.

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

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

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

**Monday, November 5:** Bring your questions about Medicare (Supplementing Medicare, Medicare D, Medicare Advantage, Low Income Assistance, Billing and Claims) to representatives from The Health Insurance Counseling and Advocacy Program of California and Center for Consumer Health Advocacy, City Hall Annex. Reservations required.

**Knit and Stitch:** First Thursday each month starting Sept. 6 at the Del Mar Library, 3 to 5pm.

**DMCC's Senior Legal Services:** Last Friday of the month (Sept. 28, Oct. 26), 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) for schedule. 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 792-7565.

**Dial-A-Ride taxi vouchers:** For seniors over age 62 and residents with special needs who live in the City of Del Mar; now available through DMCC. Call 792-7565 for details.

**Friends of the San Dieguito River Valley** will use the DMCC bus on Saturday, Sept. 15 and Oct. 13 to tour the San Dieguito Lagoon wetlands and restoration project. FREE. Call 858-674-2275, ext. 14 to reserve.

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.

## Crest Road

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Departments (including the Fire Department). This process culminated in the adoption of a phased traffic-calming plan by the City Council. Permanent improvements included one new stop sign, two new speed bumps, additional signage, as well as the posting of a 15-mile per hour speed limit. The City Council approved the temporary installation of chokers (which narrow the road to one travel lane at four locations) for the purpose of evaluating their effectiveness and to investigate the potential for diversion of traffic from Crest Road onto other local streets. Updated traffic counts were presented to the City Council earlier this year; they are available for public review on the City's website. The general conclusion from the data is that the City's traffic calming project has resulted in lower traffic volumes and a reduction in vehicular speed on Crest, with no