

SANDPIPER

The Bridge and The Del Mar Way

By Mark Whitehead

On September 10, Del Mar's City Council reported that State and Federal approval to fund and retrofit the Torrey Pines Bridge is likely, and the newly sworn-in City Manager, Karen Brust, was there to hear the good news. This is fortuitous. The story of the bridge is about Del Mar's careful stewardship of our community's built environment, an object lesson for our new city manager. It's a story of resident activism, environmentalism, determination, negotiation with another city and with all manner of state agencies, patience, cost-consciousness and, yes, politics.

Fifteen years ago, Del Mar was presented with San Diego's plan to replace the two-lane, jointly owned bridge with a new four-lane bridge, and a bill for our share. The council at the time found San Diego's unilateral planning presumptuous and threatening. Our community's traffic plan calls for two lanes so as not to encourage ever-more traffic to use Camino del Mar as a through-route alternative to I-5. Subsequently, to try to appease Del Mar, San Diego changed their plans to a three-lane bridge with one of two northbound lanes dedicated to turn onto Carmel Valley Road. The impacted San Diego neighborhood, Torrey Pines, was not consulted; they objected.

The beauty of the site and architectural significance of the bridge, raised by residents and city officials alike, led to



Del Mar's successful application for an historic designation. At the same time, to address Del Mar's insistence that the site demands a bridge of beauty, San Diego allocated "percent for the arts" funding and empanelled Del Mar residents and experts to select an artist to ensure appropriate aesthetics of any new bridge. Robert Irwin, an artist of international renown, whose work includes the Getty museum gardens, was selected. However, he resigned this highly lucrative commission when he concluded that San Diego's intended wider bridge would be ugly, not a bridge but a "ramp", and he was expected to "window-dress" it. He favored the current bridge. Del Mar's preservation efforts resulted in a Save Our Heritage Award from the San Diego Historical Society.

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Happy Hallowe'en from Del Mar Man, see page 12.



A "Grand" place for viewing the San Dieguito Lagoon, see page 6.



Del Mar firemen practicing a rescue from a car wreck, see page 8.

Balancing Private vs. Public Benefits

Redevelopment of the Gas Station Property under Proposition B confronts us with the pivotal issue of exceptional benefit – presumably a benefit given in exchange for another, going beyond the norm on both the private and public sides. Many of us may hope for an exceptional public benefit that will support our favorite cause. However, the underlying issue for the developer is not the “what” but the “how much”. In fact, our specific wishes aside, the impact of any public benefit will obviously depend upon its scale. If the benefit is improved streetscape, will it be a few benches or a new traffic-flow project? If it is parking, will it be two extra spaces, or an additional underground garage level? If it is rental subsidy, will it help one family for a year, or endow several rentals in perpetuity? The critical issue is how to measure fair exchange for what the city will be giving up.

The public discussion, so far, has centered more on the “what” than on the “how much”, whereas the developer has mostly framed the issue of scale. First, by comparing the relatively small size of their project to the two larger past Prop B projects, the Plaza and L’Auberge, they argue that their obligation should be scaled down in proportion. Secondly, much discussion has focused on profitability as a constraint on the size of any exceptional

benefit. The city, in fact, has hired an independent consultant to establish, among other things, a second opinion on the financials of the proposed project. Should this be the proportionality that the public needs to consider?

The proposed development goes well beyond the underlying zoning in several ways, including floor area ratio (FAR) and lot coverage. Current plans call for an FAR of 76.3%, a benefit 70% greater than the underlying 45% FAR. Moreover, the ratio of public to private serving space in this project is much lower than either the Plaza or L’Auberge.

Underlying zoning would allow 32 office condominiums of the size proposed – assuming the developer’s original intention of an all-office project. The current project proposes 39 such offices, plus the community-driven retail and restaurant use. Therefore the benefit to the developer is at minimum a bonus of seven office-condo units (plus, of course, the benefit from sale or rental of the non-office space). Would not this exceptional private benefit be a reasonable reference point in balancing the appropriate exceptional public benefit? The projected value of these condo units, and not the more nebulous profitability of the project, should set the city’s benchmark in gauging the expected exchange. It is the business of the developer to establish profitability. It is the business of the citizens to establish the desirability of the project and the scale of exceptional public benefit. The “office-unit bonus” seems a reasonable touchstone for our thinking, our negotiations, and ultimately our decision at the ballot box.

Bridge

Continued from page 1

The historic designation frustrated San Diego’s push for a new bridge. Unable to get support from Del Mar or from state agencies who were obligated to respect the historic

designation, San Diego gave their half of the bridge to Del Mar. To retrofit the bridge for earthquake safety our city was assured by CalTrans that the Federal government would pay 80%, with the state paying the balance. But when the dotcom bubble burst, the State withdrew its funding. Then began a process whereby various interested parties, engineers, historians, and Del Mar residents value-engineered the retrofit, engaging Freider Seible, CalTrans’ expert on bridge seismic safety and Chair of Engineering at UCSD, who designed a “strong-roadway” that would meet earthquake standards while preserving the bridge’s key architectural elements, the gothic bents and detail-work. Del Mar was then obligated to design a replacement bridge in case retrofit was too expensive or otherwise infeasible.

During the political heat of the last election the bridge, estimated to cost \$30 M to retrofit, \$20M to replace, was hyped by some as a financial blunder by Del Mar. But city staff, principally David Scherer, Public Works Director, pressed forward, jumping myriad hoops to satisfy the State agencies. The result? Promised full funding of the retrofit, and expedited construction since retrofit has less environmental impact than replacement. A good outcome after a lot of work – the Del Mar Way.

Mark Whitehead is a former mayor of Del Mar.



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

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

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Some Parting Thoughts

By Lauraine Brekke-Espaza

The editors have invited me, as your just-retired City Manager, to offer advice to the community, unfettered by concerns of political “correctness” or diplomacy. “Tell it like it is”, they asked. “Tell us what we need to hear.” While tempting, this is decidedly a very difficult assignment in part because the very attributes that make this community wonderful to work in, when exaggerated, also make Del Mar a very challenging community to work in.

I think all the readers of this paper know that Del Mar is the smallest city in San Diego County – weighing in at the last Census with 4,500 residents (maybe less). But Del Mar is also one of the loveliest cities in San Diego County and given its size and its loveliness could also be called a “boutique” city. When I came to Del Mar almost 15 years ago, having worked in cities of 100,000 (Ventura, CA) and 500,000 (Seattle, WA), I jokingly said that I was going to start specializing in the management of “boutique” cities. The more I think about it, I don’t think calling Del Mar a “boutique” city is a joke at all.

Stop for a moment to think. What do you expect when you go to a boutique – be it a restaurant, a clothing shop or a hotel? You expect excellent quality, excellent service and you expect to pay handsomely for both. Whether you believe it or not, compared to other cities in this county, Del Mar residents get excellent quality coupled with superb services. Your Public Works employees respond to water, sewer or any other emergency in a matter of minutes rather than hours or days as in other larger municipalities. The response time of Del Mar’s fire department is to be envied. We have never lost a life at the beach, thanks to the excellent service record of your lifeguards. Your code-enforcement, park-ranger, parking-enforcement officers are always at the ready. (Frequent recipients of parking tickets might complain that they are too much at the ready, but their vigilance keeps valuable parking spaces turning over.) Potholes are fixed, phones are answered by a human being,

questions are resolved, and complaints are followed up quickly. Your staff is friendly, professional and responsive.

Just like a boutique.

However, no-one is paying boutique prices for this service.

In fact, if you compare the tax rate in Del Mar to other

neighboring jurisdictions that might also qualify as “boutiques” (Rancho Santa Fe, Fairbanks Ranch, SantaLuz) you will find that buried in the property tax rates for those communities are assessment fees (in some cases for fire service, in most others for infrastructure development and maintenance) that are not levied in Del Mar. The County Assessor’s Office reports that while the tax rates are almost the same in these different jurisdictions, additional fixed rates are markedly different. In fact, the residents of SantaLuz pay 9,000% more in fixed fees on their property taxes than Del Mar residents! What for? For their infrastructure (streets, roads, curbs, gutters). Clearly, if Del Mar residents want the services they have grown accustomed to, then at some point in the not-too-distant future, residents will need to come to grips with the financial realities of running this boutique community we call Del Mar. If you enjoy boutique services, then you have to accept the costs of providing those services. Otherwise, Del Mar will no longer be a boutique – it will be a Wal-Mart!

Lauraine Brekke-Espaza is our newly retired and beloved City Manager.



First Thursday

By Lynn Gaylord

“First Thursdays” kicked off the new 2007 – 2008 season with flamenco music by Javid & Naoko. The quartet played original compositions as well as flamenco renditions from such favorites as “My Way.”

Arthur Wagner and Cecil Lytle will thrill First Thursday subscribers in October at St. Peter’s Church with “A Night of Gershwin.”

The Cultural Arts Committee of the Del Mar Foundation puts on “First Thursdays” and would be honored to have members from the community join us. For information, log onto: www.DelMarFoundation.org.



Sales Tax Trends

By Bud Emerson

In our last issue we introduced a continuing series on tax receipts from one of our top three sources of revenue, sales tax, coming mainly from restaurants, retail stores, and hotels. If our revitalization efforts are successful, the results will show up in these statistics.

The latest figures from the city show very modest gains. Restaurant sales taxes in the first quarter of 2007 were \$138,387 compared to \$137,668 in the first quarter of 2006, hardly enough to keep up with inflation.

A bump in general retail tax revenues from \$70,467 in 2006 to \$78,320 in 2007 is modestly encouraging.

In this issue, we look at the TOT revenue from tourists renting hotel rooms, and see a consistent pattern of increases, quarter by quarter, during the last two years.

L'Auberge plans to close its doors for remodeling soon for six months or longer, resulting in a significant loss in TOT revenue from tourists well into 2008. Their business strategy will be to increase rates significantly after the remodel, which, if successful, will trigger a big increase in tourist tax revenues to the city.

Bud Emerson is a resident of Del Mar.

	2007		2006		2005				
	2nd Qtr	1st Qtr	4th Qtr	3rd Qtr	2nd Qtr	1st Qtr	4th Qtr	3rd Qtr	2nd Qtr
TOT	424,405	360,542	317,474	579,637	403,970	332,116	279,688	548,610	383,489

Defeating Prop N - A Big Mistake?

By Sherryl L. Parks

Were you shocked to hear that a property in the city limits of Del Mar is being offered for sale for \$75 million? I was. I couldn't help but ask, "What could this single sale have meant to our city coffers had Proposition N passed in 2004?"

If you remember, the ballot language in Proposition N stated: "Shall the Charter of the City of Del Mar be amended to allow the City to impose a real property transfer tax by an amount not to exceed \$6 per \$1,000 of value on sales and eligible transfers of real property?"

If this proposition had passed, the single sale of \$75,000,000 would have resulted in the City receiving \$450,000 in revenue calculated as 0.6% of \$75,000,000.

I was so intrigued by the potential revenue generation from a real-estate transfer tax, that I investigated other recent sales within our city. The gas-station property sold in February 2006 for \$3,500,000 and would have resulted in a transfer tax of \$21,000. The biggest sale in

recent months was for a property on the beach, which sold for \$48,000,000 and which would have resulted in revenues of \$288,000 to the City.

Property sales within the city limits from July 1, 2006 to June 30, 2007 totaled \$186,651,885. A tax of 0.6% would have added \$1,119,911 to the City's income. Annual revenues of around \$1M from a real-property transfer tax would have made a huge difference in how much money we have each year for projects such as undergrounding, improving our lifeguard station, or finally building a decent city hall for our community.

For over thirty years I have watched the Council and City staff explore alternative plans to increase revenues for our small city. Recently the work to revitalize the city merchants has required many hours of time plus expending money for consultants. Having a healthy downtown is important, but I wonder if we would have done much better by passing Proposition N three years ago.

Other California cities have turned to a real-estate transfer tax as a solution. In fact, with a real-estate transfer tax, Del Mar would join 443 cities in the State, according to 2004/2005 figures from the League of California Cities. The rate for most of them is 0.55%. However, Berkeley charges 1.5%, Richmond 0.7%, and San Leandro 0.65%. Proposition N was a modest one!

I consider the election of 2004 a watershed year. We witnessed a political action committee called "Citizens for Taxpayer Protection" wield incredible influence over that election. After raising over \$110,000 mostly from real-estate interests, the PAC used fear of government greed and misspending in dozens of newspaper advertisements and mailers opposing Prop N. And based on final vote tally, that strategy worked with our residents, yet we lost out on significant opportunities for revenues we very much need.

Looking back, I can't help but think we blew it!

Sherryl Parks is a resident of Del Mar.



Open House at Old Gas Station Site

By Deborah Isackson-Groban

The Ad Hoc Gas Station Citizens' Steering committee appointed by the Del Mar Council continues to meet approximately twice a month to guide the proposed mixed-use development on Camino Del Mar between 9th and 10th Streets. In response to public input, the revised plan currently calls for 39 office condo units to be located on the eastern portion of site that will serve as a buffer between the commercial site and the homes located directly behind it.

The development, as proposed, contains a restaurant and small café located on the western edge of the property as well as a public plaza at the northwest corner of the site. Because the lot exceeds 25,000 square feet, it is subject to Proposition B and a community vote. If the developers had elected to build according to underlying zoning, providing exceptional public benefits would not necessarily be a requirement of the project. However, because their project is 76.3 percent FAR, exceeding the underlying zoning of 45% FAR, the developers must provide public benefits to offset this excess.

The committee continues to seek community input on this requirement and is currently considering a number of suggestions, including streetscape improvements in front of the project as well as further down Camino Del Mar, contributions to the city's affordable housing fund and contributions to a utility undergrounding fund. A California Environmental Quality Act scoping meeting designed to receive public input was held at the steering committee's last meeting, and public comment and questions may be sent to the city until approximately



October 15. These comments and concerns will be addressed in the EIR.

A second open house has been scheduled on site with the developers on October 6 from 10am to noon in order to acquaint the community with the new plans and designs and receive community input. Story poles will be erected prior to that date. Numerous environmental and planning documents are required as part of this project and recently the company of ERA was hired to conduct an independent financial analysis of the proposal. The financial feasibility of the project including the impact and consequences of condo form of ownership will also be addressed in this report.

The next meeting of the committee is scheduled on October 10 at 4pm, when the project will receive an informal, preliminary review at the Design Review Board at which time elements such as view corridors, project density and massing will be considered and suggestions will be made. The public is encouraged to participate in these events.

Deborah Isackson-Groban is a resident of Del Mar.

Go Take A Hike!

Event: Low-Water Gardening Workshop

Date: Sunday, October 7

Time: 1:00pm - 3:00pm

Location: City Hall Annex, Del Mar

Description: Learn how to create an attractive natural garden using drought-tolerant and native plants that save water and attract birds and butterflies at this free workshop sponsored by the San Dieguito River Valley Conservancy. Space is limited; reservations required. Contact grownative@sdrvc.org or (858) 674-2275 x12 for directions and to reserve a space.

Event: Trail Patrol Training

Date: Saturday, October 13

Time: 9:00am - 3:00pm

Location: Casa de las Campanas, Rancho Bernardo

Description: Enjoy the outdoors as a Trail Patrol volunteer for the San Dieguito River Park! Learn about the natural resources in the 55-mile-long San Dieguito River Park and how you can assist rangers by patrolling

the trails. Free; reservations required. Contact barbara@sdrp.org or (858) 674-2275 x14 for more information and to reserve a space by October 8.

Event: Habitat Restoration

Date: Sunday, October 28

Time: 1:00pm - 3:30pm

Location: San Dieguito Lagoon, Del Mar Fairgrounds

Description: Assist the San Dieguito River Valley Conservancy in enhancing a new segment of the San Dieguito River Park's Coast-to-Crest Trail by removing non-native plants. Bring water, sun protection and wear sturdy, closed-toed shoes. Reservations required; contact volunteer@sdrvc.org or (858) 674-2275 x12 for parking instructions.

The Sandpiper welcomes with open arms
our new City Manager,
Karen Brust.

We look forward to getting to know her,
starting with our next issue.

Rx for the San Dieguito Lagoon

By Dawn Rawls

Driving north or south on I-5, all of us has noticed the earthmovers and, now, the large ponds of water that have taken up residence in the San Dieguito Lagoon. Within two years, this restoration work by Southern California Edison (SCE) and the San Dieguito River Park Joint Powers Authority will be finished, and we will move into the long-term phase of work: maintaining our lagoon in vibrant health.

Is there a plan, an Rx, in place for the lagoon's health? Indeed: 1. Water, Water, Water; 2. Monitoring and Response; 3. Safeguarding.

Water, Water, Water

The lagoon is the meeting ground of fresh water, salt water, and runoff water. When the balance is healthy, such a watery crossroads has a rich population of life forms from the tiniest mud dwellers and floating plankton to the leaping fish and winging birds that lift our spirits. Fresh water comes from the San Dieguito River and rain; salt water, from the tidal flow of the ocean into the river's mouth at dog beach; and runoff, from every natural and human setting that drains into the river. Everything does flow down to the sea – right through the San Dieguito Lagoon!

The restoration work will encourage tidal waters from the ocean to be retained in large ponds freshened by river water and flushed by the tides, forming breeding and nursery sanctuaries for ocean fish and stopover feeding grounds for birds on their Pacific Flyway migrations. City programs to clean up runoff from our storm drains will reduce pollution in those nursery sanctuaries. Yes, that clean-water fee on our water bills helps defray the cost of protecting our lagoon and beaches from all those yard fertilizers, landscape detritus, animal droppings, car oils, and commercial waste that travel into the storm drains.

Monitoring and Response

For many years, the scientists of Coastal Environments, headed by Dr. Hany Elwany of Scripps Institution of Oceanography, have been monitoring several sites in the

lagoon and the river. Their data, regularly reported to the City and SCE staff, and Del Mar's San Dieguito Lagoon Committee, include water temperature, pH, salinity and dissolved oxygen. Taken together, these data indicate the health of the lagoon waters. When winter rains cease, ocean currents fill the river mouth with sand and summer temperatures rise, conditions in the lagoon worsen.

When conditions deteriorate, the balances among water-borne life change and we see heavy green mats of algae and dead fish. In recent years the community's response has been to open the river mouth to flush the lagoons, release trapped waters and restore a healthy balance. Restoration plans include 40 years of monitoring and appropriate response by SCE to maintain healthy water balances, encourage natural revegetation and nurture the full range of wetland creatures.

Safeguarding

Balancing acts are always delicate; small influences, added together over time can throw everything off-balance. Building, landscaping, traffic, passing trains, farming, horse facilities and just plain trash all produce pollution. Development and intensified use at the Fairgrounds, Flower Hill and upstream along the river augment these sources. The train trestle bridge that crosses the river catches sand and clogs the river flow. Widening of I-5 where it crosses the lagoon will impact river flow, and further degrade the wetlands.

In many ways, we will need to safeguard our lagoon from ourselves while still enjoying the open views and wildlife. The Grand Avenue bridge just off of San Dieguito Road is a good example of how we can do just that. This bridge, which led across the river into the heart of the area being restored, is now being converted into an overlook that will not cross the river ensuring that people, their pets and their trash will no longer enter the lagoon preserve. So come down to the lagoon, observe, relax, but leave only footprints!

Dawn Rawls is a resident of Del Mar.

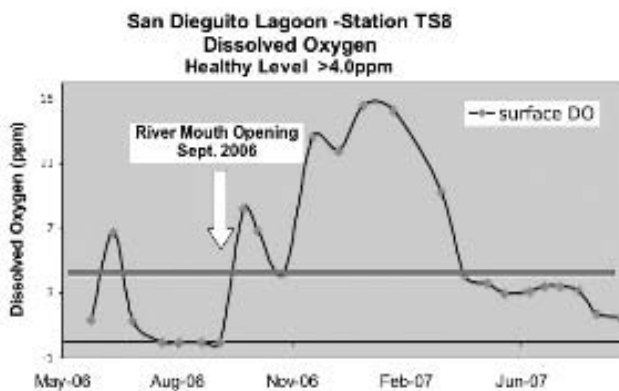
Winston School Key To Shores Property

By Joe Sullivan

The City has been working with the Friends of the Parks and the Winston School to acquire the Shores Property since it was declared surplus by the Del Mar School District in 2005. In July a price of \$8.5 million was agreed. The Friends and Winston need to raise the \$8.5 million by February 28, 2008 to keep the property in the public trust.

Laura DeMarco, Chair of the Friends, says this is a perfect partnership. "Winston can reach beyond the Del Mar community, to their families and alumni, to help reach our fundraising goal. We can be sure the property will continue to be used for educational purposes, as intended by the Kerkchoff grant sixty years ago. And Winston will continue to be a good neighbor and vital resource for our children."

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Save IT for ME

By Ingrid Hoffmeister

A class of sixth-grade students from Del Mar Hills Academy scream “Save IT for ME”. The “IT” they want to save is the earth, and the impact of their plea can be seen in their 30-minute environmental TV documentary entitled “Save IT for ME”. Made in collaboration with the Del Mar TV Foundation (DMTVF), the documentary is a result of DMTVF’s educational outreach program.

The school video project was initiated last November by teacher Susie Hopper and this writer. During that same period the County 2006-2007 Cable Television Grant Award Program for \$10,000 was requesting proposals, so it seemed to make sense to apply for the grant if we could create a program to fit both the County guidelines and the 6th grade school curriculum. Hopper felt passionate about conservation and the environment, and it fitted well into her lesson plan. With the support of school grant writer Grace Hauser, I applied for the grant and partnered with the County Watershed Protection Program.

I then swapped my DMTVF Co-President hat for Executive Producer and turned to the creative team of Director/Producer Tracy Phillips and Director of Photography Jeff Stone to make up the production trio. Phillips and I wrote the script and brought in a hip 19-year-old Torrey Pines graduate, Michael Gallagher, to act as host.

The documentary follows four students and their families as they attempt a four-week green experiment exchanging their regular daily habits for those that will improve the environment. With the support of experts in the areas of water, energy, transportation and consumption, the families along with viewers learn about current environmental problems and how they can actualize potential solutions. “We quickly realized that this was an extraordinary opportunity to really make a difference”, says Director/ Producer Phillips. “Everyone involved with the project was 100% passionate and willing to do what was necessary to send out the right



Sixth-grade teacher Susie Hopper and her class at Del Mar Hills Academy

message. We were so happy when the Hattie Ettinger Conservation Fund with the San Diego Foundation gave us \$2,500 because we were now able to take extra film footage, and it really made a difference to our finished product”.

On August 31 “Save It for ME” was completed. The four students (Trey Hahn, Sumana Mahata, Phoenix Becker and Emily Morgan), and their families, plan to continue their environmental challenge. The DMTVF hopes to utilize the documentary “Save IT for ME” beyond cable TV networks and into the school system by creating a lesson plan to accompany the documentary. It is our hope that all students will take home to their parents a brochure or DVD of “Save IT for Me” so they to can learn how to make a difference and become an integral healing branch of the global tree. The program will be cablecast in October on all CTN, County Television Networks: Cox North 19: Cox South 24: Time-Warner 22 and Del Mar Community network, Time-Warner 24. It is also available on live streaming on DMTVF web site at www.delmartv.com.

Ingrid Hoffmeister is a resident of Del Mar.

Shores Property

Continued from page 6

The Winston School has occupied a portion of the property since 1988 on a series of short-term leases. Winston is a private non-profit school dedicated to providing a challenging college prep program for students with learning differences, such as dyslexia, ADD, and ADHD. The school currently serves over 100 students, grades 4-12, from throughout the region. Winston is noted for its dedicated teaching staff, small class sizes and innovative teaching strategies. More than 90% of Winston graduates go on to two- or four-year colleges.

Headmaster Mike Peterson says Winston looks forward to a permanent home in Del Mar. “Everyone agrees

Del Mar is an ideal location for our school. It is centrally located for most of our families, and has excellent access to public transportation. Also, the rich educational resources available within the immediate neighborhood – from being able to walk to the public library, or paint at Seagrove Park, or conduct an environmental survey at Torrey Pines – provide our students with unique opportunities to learn outside the classroom walls.”

Winston will lease its property from the City for 55 years. The Winston community has committed to raise at least \$3 million toward the required \$8.5 million. Funds will be transferred to the City as pre-payment on its lease.

For more information see www.thewinstonschool.com or www.delmarparks.com.

Del Mar resident Joe Sullivan is co-chair of the Friends of Del Mar Parks.

A Day In the Life...

By Carol Kerridge

Most emergencies happen without warning. If you've ever experienced a situation where you or a loved one is in serious danger, the sound of an approaching siren is tremendously reassuring.

We've all grown up taking our local fire departments for granted. Those specially trained first responders are just always there when we need help! They are vital members of each community, particularly here in Del Mar. But we know so little about their day-to-day lives.

PLEASE REMEMBER:

Whenever you are driving on a road and hear an approaching siren, pull off to the RIGHT so the emergency vehicles can pass on the LEFT!

Here in the Del Mar Fire Department, we have nine full-time employees. They are divided into three teams; each team consists of a Captain (who works as a supervisor), an engineer (who drives the engine, finds the location of the incident, finds the necessary equipment needed for the incident, and is a general assistant at the scene), and two firefighters (at least one is a paramedic). The shifts often overlap. They work four days a week, 24 hours at a



Fire Engineer Patrick O'Neil briefs other firemen as they prepare for a drill

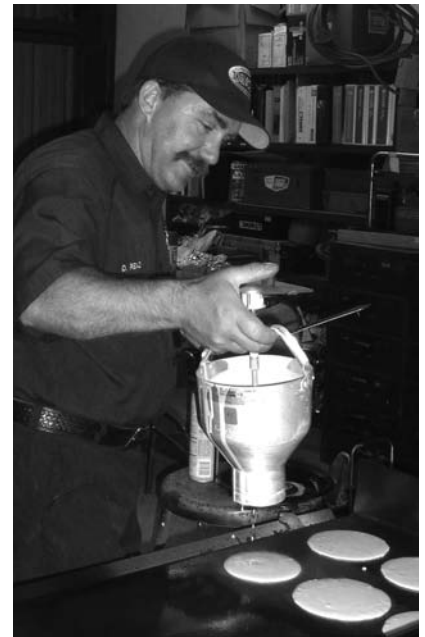
time. Our Fire Department responds to nearly 1500 calls annually. These calls are mostly for medical problems, motor vehicle accidents, and rescues; only 10% of the calls are for fire suppression. After a 911 call comes in from Central Dispatch, our firemen's response time to the scene is 3-5 minutes. Each call is timed. (Did you know that if a call to 911 is made from a cell phone, it goes to the CHP first?)

But what do they do when they are not out on a call? Each day begins at 8am, when all of the medical and fire equipment is checked to assure that it is in the best

working order. Every day, a different piece of rescue apparatus is disassembled, tuned, charged and checked for problems. Each shift has a daily training exercise, whether it's a practical review or a closed-circuit televised class that all regional firemen participate in. They are also responsible for chores around the firehouse: the cooking, cleaning, and gardening. And yes, they can be called out for emergencies at any time of the day.

As if their days were not filled enough, each fireman has a special-interest responsibility too, such as: community outreach, training other firemen, communication, or fundraising for the Burn Institute, where many of them are camp counselors for children who are burn victims.

Educational requirements to become a fireman have changed over the years and at this time, it takes about 3-5 years of ongoing training. This training includes six months of EMT training, one year of working in the field as an EMT, one-year paramedic training and one year at a Fire Academy.



Del Mar firefighter Dave Read making pancakes for the fire station open house

GET READY FOR FIRE SEASON

Free curb pick-up of limbs, brush and other vegetation on your normal trash day during the week of October 8-12.

Whether it's because of the camaraderie of working together with people who have common goals, the excitement of not knowing what each call will bring, or the sheer sense of pride of making a difference in someone's life, all of our Del Mar Firemen love their jobs...and it shows when they tell you about their lives.

They welcome visitors from the community and invite residents to come take a tour. They are not shy about telling us that their motto is "We are here to serve you".

Carol Kerridge is a resident of Del Mar.

Reminder! CERT classes start on October 2, 6pm, at Solana Beach Fire Station.

October Community Calendar

DMCC Flu Shot Clinic: Wednesday, October 3, 9am-3pm at City Hall Annex. By appointment only, no charge for Medicare B patients, \$30 for Medicare A only (Kaiser). Call 792-7565.

Friends of Del Mar Library Board Meeting: Wednesday, October 3, 4pm, Del Mar Library.

DMCC Knit & Stitch Group: Thursday, October 4, 3pm, Del Mar Library. Free, just bring knitting or a project. For information, call Regina at 755-1931.

First Thursday: October 4, "An Evening of Gershwin" featuring Cecil Lytle & Arthur Wagner, St. Peter's Parish Hall. The Cultural Arts Committee of the Del Mar Foundation welcomes members of the community for wine & cheese at 6:30pm, performance at 7pm.

A Taste of Del Mar and Art Stroll: Saturday, October 6, 10am-4pm, downtown Del Mar. Featuring Jeff Yeomans and works by juried local and regional artists in many media, tastes from 20+ local restaurants, interactive art area for kids, music, wine tasting, pet stroll and more. For tickets, check www.delmarmainstreet.com.

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

Children's Music Concert: Hullabaloo, Sunday, October 7, 1pm, Powerhouse Community Center. Enjoy Del Mar's award-winning kids' music duo! Admission is free, sponsored by the Del Mar Foundation.

Low-Water Gardening Workshop: Sunday, October 7, 1-3pm, City Hall Annex. Sponsored by the San Dieguito River Park.

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

City Council Meetings: Monday, October 8 and Monday, October 22, 6pm, Del Mar TV studio.

Dead Sea Scrolls: Tuesday, October 9, 9:15am-1pm via Del Mar Community Connections bus to San Diego Natural History Museum. Reservations required so please call 792-7565.

Preschool Spanish/English Storytime: Tuesday, October 9, 10:30am, Del Mar Library.

DM Planning Commission: Tuesday, October 9, 6pm, Del Mar TV Station.

Cultural Arts Committee: Wednesday, October 10, 8:30am, Powerhouse Community Center on the balcony. The public is welcome to attend.

DMVA Promotion Committee: Wednesday, October 10, 9am, Del Mar TV Studio.

Del Mar Foundation Board Meeting: Thursday, October 11, 8:30am, City Hall Annex. All interested parties are welcome to attend.

Producer's Showcase: Thursday, October 11, 6pm, Del Mar TV Studio. The purpose is to hone skills and develop programs of interest to local viewers.

DMVA Design Committee: Friday, October 12 and October 26, 9am, City Hall Annex.

Del Mar Community Connections Monthly Board Meeting: Saturday, October 13, 9am, City Hall Annex. The meeting is open to the public. Tour of San Dieguito River Park Lands Undergoing Restoration: Saturday, October 13, 9am or 11am, San Dieguito Lagoon area. Tour sponsored by the Friends of the San Dieguito River Valley to celebrate the work in progress. Reservations required, please call 674-2275.

Del Mar Arts Center Board Meeting: Monday, October 15, 6:30pm, Del Mar Arts Center.

Del Mar Historical Society Monthly Meeting: Tuesday, October 16, 7pm, City Hall Annex. The public is welcome.

Del Mar Garden Club Fundraiser: Wednesday, October 17, 6-9pm, Giorgio's (Osteria del Pescatore), 1201 Camino del Mar, Del Mar; join Garden Club members and 20% of your total bill will be rebated to the Garden Club for DM beautification.

Del Mar Television Foundation Producer's Meeting: Wednesday, October 17, 6:30pm, Del Mar TV Studio. The monthly meeting is open to those interested in networking with others to develop programs at DMTV.

Friends of the Powerhouse Board Meeting: Wednesday, October 17, 9am, Jakes. The monthly meeting is open to the public.

DMVA Design Committee: Sunday, October 21, L'Auberge Amphitheater. Cardboard sculpting workshop conducted by Michael Stutz. See www.dmvamainstreet.com for details.

DMVA Economic Restructuring Committee: Wednesday, October 24, 9am, L'Auberge Del Mar Resort and Spa lobby.

Design Review Board (DRB): Wednesday, October 24, 6pm, Del Mar TV Station.

DMVA Board of Directors Meeting: Thursday, October 25, 8am, City Hall Annex.

Rose Society Monthly Meeting: Thursday, October 25, 6:30pm-8:30pm, Powerhouse Community Center. Annual potluck dinner.

Elder Legal Services: Friday, October 26, 9am to 1pm, DMCC office at City Hall Annex. Many legal services offered FREE by Elder Law & Advocacy to seniors 60 years or older in 92014 zip code (Del Mar) area. For appointments call DMCC: 792-7565.

Hallowe'en in the Village: Sunday, October 28, 2-5pm, L'Auberge Del Mar Outdoor Amphitheatre and downtown Del Mar. Bring little ghosts and goblins for trick-or-treating, arts/crafts, refreshments and spooky activities. The Mystifier performs at 4pm, costume contest awards at 4:30 pm. Be haunted by the fun!



Hallowe'en 2006
(Left) Lauren Grove and Georgia Tierney haunt downtown during last year's Hallowe'en in the Village, organized by DMVA.

(Right) June Strasberg and grand-daughter Rosie tend the pumpkin stand, while Linda Castile looks on.



The Cardboard Queen Knows: Your Trash Is Valuable!

By Betty Wheeler

The next time you drag trash to the curb, consider this: the world's richest self-made woman, "Cardboard Queen" Zhang Yin of China, built her wealth (\$3.4 billion) on wastepaper from the U.S., from the humble beginnings of a business she ran out of her Pomona, CA apartment in 1990.

In our convenience-is-everything culture, we tend to ignore the eco-impacts of our daily habits. Yet, small changes can significantly reduce our environmental footprint. In Del Mar, we divert 52% of our waste stream from the landfill. We could painlessly divert much more. Only 75% of us participate in curbside recycling, and with a little care, we could all recycle more.

Del Mar offers easy curbside recycling of many items:

- Paper (newspaper, phone books, mixed paper - no need to separate);
- Cardboard (flatten into 3x3 bundle and put it beside your mixed paper);
- Aluminum/metal cans, glass bottles & jars, all plastic beverage containers (#1 to #7), and non-beverage plastic marked #1 or #2 - no need to separate;
- Yard waste - loose in separate garbage cans, not in plastic bags.



You can also take recyclables to Liberty Recycling, 2265 Jimmy Durante Blvd. (Tuesday-Saturday). They'll pay you for bottles and cans with CA redemption value. This is a fast, friendly process, recommended to D.I.Y. types who want to get that 5¢ deposit back, instead of the indirect benefit having it defray curbside operations costs.

What happens to your stuff? First, it goes to Oceanside for sorting. At that point it's a commodity, sold for the best price and sent to a processor. Your paper is likely to travel to someone like Zhang Yin; mills that process wastepaper are almost entirely overseas now. (Reduce your eco-footprint even more by using less paper, reducing transportation-related energy use and the impact of processes such as de-inking.)

Your #1 plastics become carpet, clothes, or other fiber-based products; #2 plastics become plastic lumber, park benches, or similar products. (Better yet, reduce your use of plastics to conserve oil, which is what they're made from.) Recycled aluminum cans are environmental stars: it takes 95% less energy to make a new can from recycled cans instead of virgin ore, and open-cut mining to obtain ore is reduced. The energy savings from one can will burn a 100-watt bulb for four hours (but you've switched to compact fluorescents, right?). Steel cans are recycled into high-quality new metal. Glass can also be recycled indefinitely, though it must be color-separated. Your yard waste is used at the Sycamore Landfill for alternative cover for odor control. Reduce, reuse, recycle. Sometimes, easy changes add up to big change. Ask the Cardboard Queen: she knows!

Betty Wheeler is a resident of Del Mar.

Sips and Tidbits

Recommendations for Fine Local Dining

By Wayne and Liz Dernetz

One of our old favorites is Café Del Mar, owned and managed by Steve Kranhold, a long-time Del Mar resident. Steve has been operating Café Del Mar continually since 1984, giving him the distinction of being one of our town's longest-tenured restaurateurs.

Café Del Mar offers the finest-quality foods available from nearby sources in a bistro-like setting. The menu varies seasonally according to the availability of high-quality produce, seafood and meats, and sometimes changes in customers' tastes. Diners can expect to find produce grown within San Diego County, including Chino's, and seafood caught locally on the menu.

Steve estimates that 80 percent of his customers are

regulars from the area. They keep coming back for favorite appetizers such as the Baked Garlic, entrees such as the Warm Chicken Salad, and Steve's specialty pizzas baked in a real brick oven.

Beginning in early October, watch for the fresh local grilled lobster entree every Thursday. There's also a new \$8.00 Monday-night special coming soon: Firehouse Brewery beer and ales paired with a design-your-own Burger - a great way to enjoy Monday Night Football! Café Del Mar features only certified Angus Beef. The half-price wine nights Tuesdays and Thursdays will continue. Open M-F 11:30am-2:30pm and 5-9pm; weekends 9am-3pm and 5-10pm; 1247 Camino Del Mar; phone (619) 481-1133.

We hope that you were able to discern that the menu that we included as a flyer in the last issue was from J. Taylor's at L'Auberge. We and they regret any inconvenience that may have occurred.

Wayne and Liz Dernetz are residents 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.

Wednesday, October 3: Annual Flu Shots. City Hall Annex, 9am to 3pm.

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 1 pm. Suggested bus donation \$7.

NEW Community Discussion Group: Aging with Grace – A Jungian View of Autumn, four Wednesday mornings in October. Call Ann Silber for details 755-2119.

Monday, November 5: Ask the Experts about Medicare (Supplementing Medicare, Medicare D, Medicare Advantage, Low Income Assistance, Billing and Claims); Representatives from HICAP and Center for Consumer Health Advocacy, City Hall Annex. Reservations required.

Monday, December 10: Holiday Tea. Celebrate the season with sweets, savories and song at St. Peter's Church, 1 to 3pm.

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. San Dieguito Adult School (760) 753-7073 ext. 3418 or www.sdadulthood.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.

Life Story Classes: With Mai Lon Gittelsohn, the Library at St. Peter's Episcopal Church.

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.

Knit and Stitch: First Thursday each month at the Del Mar Library, 3 to 5pm. Bring your own project. Call Regina Horner, 755-1931.

DMCC's Senior Legal Services: Last Friday of the month (Oct. 26), 9am to 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 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, are now available through DMCC. Call 792-7565 for details.

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

Shared Housing and Rental Assistance

Del Mar Community Connections administers Shared Housing and Rental Assistance Programs and is always looking for new Home Providers to provide affordable housing in Del Mar! If you are a Del Mar homeowner with an extra room or separate unit to exchange for rent &/or services, please fill out a Home Provider Application at <http://www.dmcc.cc/shared-homeprovider.shtml> or call DMCC, 792-7565, to learn more about the program. Becoming a home provider offers many benefits: a bit of extra income from rent, help with chores, companionship or preventing loneliness, practice in seeing what it's like to share your home. All prospective tenants are prescreened, and background checks are conducted. All efforts

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

Home seekers earning \$38,650/yr or less and looking for affordable housing in Del Mar, may apply to be matched with a home provider in exchange for rent and/or services. Call 233-9105 for a recorded message listing current Shared Housing opportunities in Del Mar, or complete a Home Seeker Application at <http://www.dmcc.cc/shared-homeseker.shtml>. Home seeker income limits apply; references are required, and background checks conducted.

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

Del Mar Man

By Jacqueline Winterer

About 12,000 to 10,000 years ago Homo sapiens crossed the Bering Straits during the later part of the last Ice Age when the sea level was lower than today. Paleo-Indian populations then moved southward ultimately to populate the Americas. How fast, where and when is a subject of great interest to archeologists, and Del Mar has provided a skeleton to this debate.

A well-preserved skull and some bones were found in a 6-foot-deep shell midden in the sea-cliff just north of the San Dieguito River mouth in 1929 by Malcolm Rogers, a pioneer archeologist for the San Diego Museum of Man. Many tools and artifacts of ancient cultures exist and continue to be found in our area, but skeletal remains are rare finds because some of the Paleo-Indian people did not bury their dead. The skull was first named San Diego Man.

In 1974, Jeff Bada, a professor of geochemistry at the Scripps Institution of Oceanography, developed a new dating technique called amino-acid racemization. He sought from the city of Del Mar the authorization to revisit the site. By that time Del Mar had incorporated and the then-City Manager of Del Mar, Wayne Dernetz, authorized the dig. He convinced the archeological community that the skeleton should be called Del Mar Man.

A first attempt at dating the bones by Bada became very controversial because it gave a much earlier date than the one provided by other dating techniques. Bada subsequently obtained radiocarbon dates on the reference samples he used and determined that the



Malcolm Rogers exploring the Del Mar Man site north of the Rivermouth in 1929. Photo courtesy of the San Diego Museum of Man.

probable age of the Del Mar man was about 5,400 years. This age, more in line with those found at other sites, seems now to be widely accepted.

The skull of the Del Mar Man used to be exhibited at the Museum of Man in Balboa Park, but local Native Americans people have argued successfully that exhibiting human remains was sacrilegious. Now all skeletal remains

have been removed from public view and are stored in the Museum's archives where they have been cataloged and are held for possible burial.

A few weeks ago the New York Times reported that DNA analysis of an Egyptian mummy had identified it as an ancient Egyptian Queen who ruled 3000 years B.C.E., which is 5000 years before the present. The DNA was preserved in the tooth cavity

of her skull. The thought came to me that, given the fact that Del Mar Man has a set of well-preserved teeth, maybe a DNA analysis could provide some new perspective on the issue. But here again it appears that the tension between modern man's culture and that of a more ancient people may preclude this investigation.

Recently, the privately owned "Tippett" property above the archeological site recently changed hands leading to the prospect of new development in the area. An application for development would trigger the environmental review process of the California Environmental Quality Act of 1970 (CEQA). CEQA would document whether the evidence of prehistoric human occupancy at the dig extends to the Tippett site, what the environmental effect of the proposed project would be, and establish the duty for the developer to avoid environmental damage to what is a very rare archeological site.

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

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