

SANDPIPER

Were We Ready, Del Mar?

What worked well? What could have worked better? How can we improve?

By Carol Kerridge

As we awakened, coughing, on Monday, October 22, little did we know that our city was already planning to avert a disaster. Learning of the possible threat to Del Mar, Fire Chief David Ott and our very new City Manager Karen Brust had activated an Emergency Operations Command (EOC). This temporary emergency city government would replace the normal day-to-day routine of the City for however long it would take until the fire was no longer considered a threat.

Generally, an EOC, depending on the type of emergency, has several sections of specific duties: management, operations, planning, logistics and finance. As our City's Department Heads took their positions, it was clear to any observer that they had spent much time practicing for this very moment.

Overall management fell to Karen Brust, and what a job she did juggling all of the information, systems and personnel as though she had known our city for years, always with a calm and pleasant demeanor. Included in her domain were frequent updates of the city web-site (www.delmar.ca.us). These were particularly important to Del Mar residents because news coverage on TV and radio was not always accurate or specific for Del Mar.

The operational part of the EOC might have been the most



A Big "Thank You" to All Our Firefighters

challenging. Our Fire Dept. along with the County Office of Emergency Services continuously kept the City abreast of changes. Chief Ott, and Captain Tom Wolf, both frequently at the EOC, communicated with firefighters at the scene who kept them informed by radio about the direction and speed of the wind along with the proximity and location of the fires.

As the Witch Creek fire approached Lake Hodges in the late morning, tension in the EOC became palpable. The unrelenting wind and its frequently changing direction had helped the fire scale the side of the lake. It would likely move to the fuel-rich creek bed to its west, feeding directly into the canyon leading to Rancho Santa Fe, Fairbanks

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Downtown Del Mar, see page 4.



Music maestro, Cecil Lytle, see page 8.



P.E. was never like this, see page 10.

A Good-Neighbor Policy

Despite the fact that we live in the same neighborhood, the relationship between the Fairgrounds and Del Mar has, at its best, rarely risen above the level of strained. Their primary interests are to intensify fair, horse, and various other activities to increase revenue and profits. Our primary interests are to minimize traffic, noise, lights, and environmental damage.

Given this long history, we might be expected to sink into cynical pessimism about their plan to erect a large hotel near the bridge and lagoon. Instead we choose to be optimistic, hoping this time that Lucy will not snatch the football from Charlie Brown's ever-trusting kicking swing. The tiresome plot will this time be acted out with a new

cast of characters. Our optimism rests on the backs of an enthusiastic new city manager and eight relatively new members of the Fair Board (add the positive energy of Solana Beach's new city manager for good measure). These newbies do not carry the scars and resentments of long ago wars.

Perhaps they can rise above the dispute and recognize the potential for a confluence of interests. The formula would enable us to join them in finding moneymaking events that are consistent with their original mission but that do not adversely affect the communities and the fragile environment which are in the neighborhood. The framework could be a "good neighbor" policy, which enumerates what each party will do or not do to respect one another's vital interests. The policy could then be used as an objective measuring stick for any proposed activity.

We urge both parties to give it a good faith effort one more time.

Were We Ready?

Continued from page 1

Ranch and the San Dieguito River Valley with its beautiful, but very dry, foliage and trees. For Del Mar, the huge threat would be to the south of the Lagoon, our precious Crest Canyon.

When it became obvious that Del Mar could be in the path of the fire, Pat Vergne, our Community Services Director, coordinated our City-led evacuation plan. Using his lifeguards, Public Works employees and our Park Ranger, residents in the immediate area of Crest Canyon were notified to start preparing for evacuation. As the situation deteriorated by early evening, and the fire jumped the San Dieguito River heading towards Fairbanks Ranch, Del Mar residents living near Crest Canyon were ordered to evacuate. The "Reverse 911" call system was utilized by the County, but by this time, most of the residents of those areas had evacuated.

Pat was also instrumental at organizing the lifeguards along with a paramedic to respond to regular emergency calls in our area while the firemen were out fighting the fires, as well as utilizing his team to monitor and safeguard homes in our area that had been evacuated.

Our department heads worked tirelessly together with other staff members to gather information, evaluate resources needed, provide logistical support with equipment, personnel, personal needs, and providing food and water in the field and at the EOC.

The EOC was buzzing with activity. City Council members frequently visited to keep themselves and Del Mar residents updated.

Mid-afternoon on Monday, County Supervisor Pam Slater-Price, called the EOC to see if help was available to assist at the Fairgrounds evacuation center with the influx of evacuees from nursing homes in east county. Nine of the Del Mar CERT team were available and volunteered for several hours; some had been activated earlier through the San Diego Medical Reserve Corps.

By late Monday evening, the winds had calmed and shifted direction. Although Del Mar was still on high alert, most remaining residents in town could feel a small sigh of relief, but our EOC was staffed throughout the night watching and waiting, still in frequent contact with authorities monitoring the county fires.

The evacuation order for the City of Del Mar was lifted at 2 pm on Tuesday and the EOC was officially closed at 1 pm, Oct, 24.

As in any emergency situation there are always imperfections and things that can be improved. The City will be closely evaluating those issues at debriefing meetings in the near future and in forthcoming articles we shall review the performance of Del Mar's disaster plan.

We now know much more about the value of planning ahead for a disaster, and we can take a big lesson home from our City Staff.

The Sandpiper joins Deputy Mayor Dave Druker in his remarks, "We can be very proud of our City Staff and our Firemen. They gave Del Mar residents a very professional effort at this very difficult time."

See also "Are You Ready?" on page 5.



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

Get to Know Our New City Manager

By Wayne Dernetz



Karen Brust took over the reins of City Manager on October 1, 2007. The Sandpiper presents an exclusive interview conducted with Karen as she begins her tenure.

The Sandpiper: You're leaving a highly responsible position with the County Water Authority, a much larger organization than the City of

Del Mar. What motivated you to seek the City Manager position here?

Karen Brust: The City of Del Mar is a quality organization and has a citizenry that is committed to a high quality of life for their community. I am very committed to public service. Together, we share a mutual mission of doing what is right and what is best for the people of Del Mar. That is what really drew me to the City.

TS: There are many facets to being an effective city manager. What are the main personal assets or the best qualities you bring to this position?

KB: I am a leader with strong interpersonal and customer-service skills. I enjoy people and am very approachable with an open door policy. I am realistic that I have limitations in my role, but I expect it of myself and my staff to do our best to make a difference. I face issues in a straightforward manner and believe integrity and honesty are the cornerstones of our relationship.

TS: How would you describe your management style?

KB: As a participatory manager, my style is very collaborative and inclusive. Ultimately, through input

and facts, I will make the best decision because it has been vetted by the City's stakeholders. I build strong cohesive teams that typically uphold the same core values and ethics that I practice.

TS: What do you see as the essential role of the City Manager in Del Mar?

KB: Listening to the community and serving the residents and businesses in a way that meets their needs is essential in my role. Leading the Del Mar Team (Staff) to excellence in providing first-rate services to support the quality of life that is expected by our valued residents and businesses is critical.

TS: What will be among your first priorities as you settle into your new position?

KB: My first priority is getting to know the community and getting myself quickly up to speed in order to maximize my effectiveness in leading the City. Equally as important is building a partnership with the City Council to ensure that we are a model of good government.

TS: What new or different challenges and opportunities do you believe lie ahead for Del Mar?

KB: Preserving the City, yet allowing for change in a way that underscores the principles of its forefathers is the greatest challenge facing the City of Del Mar. Changing demographics and demand in service levels with an eroding revenue base creates another layer of complexity in ensuring the City's bright future.

TS: What would you ask of Del Mar's residents and the business community in order to assist you and the City Council to address the needs and challenges ahead?

KB: Please keep an open mind as issues unfold. Give us a chance to be able to listen to your concerns and respond to you in a way that demonstrates our commitment to the community. I believe we all want what is best for the City; coming together to work through issues and collaborating around our common interests will ensure success. Please share with me. I am listening!

Sips and Tidbits

Recommendations for Fine Local Dining

By Wayne & Liz Dernetz

Throughout its 20-plus years at the Del Mar Plaza, **Pacifica Del Mar** has been recognized as one of San Diego's premier restaurants. Executive Chef Chris Idso attributes this award-winning success to three factors: serve great food made only from the finest ingredients; provide outstanding service to customers; and insure a fresh and interesting decor. We visited Pacifica recently and found Chris's formula for success is still working.

Pacifica's main restaurant on the upper Plaza Level, offers California-influenced Pacific Rim cuisine for lunch and dinner. Both the decor and the cuisine are

appropriate for the excellent views of the Pacific Ocean from the dining terrace. The Gallery, Pacifica's indoor dining room, and the bar are brightly lit, colorful and furnished in modern style. The service is always prompt and attentive.

Among the more popular dishes at Pacifica are the traditional Sugar Spiced Grilled Salmon and the Sea Bass served with fresh chutney toppings. Rib Eye steaks are grilled precisely to order with choice of potato and seasonal fresh vegetables.

Pacifica offers an excellent breakfast and lunch menu in The Breeze, a bistro-style eatery popular among locals on the Market Level below. The Salmon Hash breakfast dish and the luncheon Turkey Brie Wrap with tomato apricot chutney are long time favorites. Chef Idso estimates that 90 percent of The Breeze's customers are

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Who Owns Our Downtown?

By Wayne Dernetz

The future of Del Mar's downtown is the focus of much attention lately. The City Council recently placed a moratorium on new offices within the CC zone; the Del Mar Village Association (DMVA) is promoting the "Main Street" program aimed at "revitalizing" the downtown; and the first major development in more than 20 years is proposed for the former gas-station site.

Just how important is our downtown? I believe most residents would like the kind of downtown described in our Community Plan: "an economically viable, pedestrian oriented and attractive area that serves the needs of both residents and visitors and is well integrated into the residential fabric of the community."

Most, too, would agree the current downtown doesn't live up to that grand vision. City leaders and the DMVA are concerned about economic viability. They worry about declining sales tax revenues and the impact on City services. Business owners want to increase revenues by attracting more visitors to Del Mar. Property owners and developers contend Del Mar's regulations are too tough to afford improvement or redevelopment. And as residents, we complain about the lack of neighborhood retail shops and services, poor pedestrian access and inadequate parking.

The health of our downtown depends on the interrelationship of many factors – an economic ecosystem. Before introducing any changes, we should understand how these various factors relate to one another. For example, few of us may know that just a small number of owners control two-thirds of the property in our downtown (excluding L'Auberge and Del Mar Plaza); or that all these properties together contribute less than two percent of Del Mar's property tax revenues, half of its proportionate share.

To better understand the economic ecology of our downtown, we begin a series of articles examining these factors, starting with the distribution and division of downtown property ownership.

County Assessor's records identify 63 individual parcels of land, or property, located within the CC zone, excluding government-owned parcels at the City Hall, Library and Post Office. The CC zone covers much of 15th Street and both sides of Camino del Mar to 9th Street. It does not include L'Auberge and the Del Mar Plaza. Those properties are not included in this discussion.

The 63 parcels within the CC zone include 490,844 square feet of land; more than 11 acres in total. Individual parcels range in size from 2,065 sq. ft. to 24,000 sq. ft. The average parcel size is only 7,791 sq. ft. while the median size is 6,825 sq. ft. Our downtown is composed of very small parcels.

These 63 parcels are owned or controlled by 35 individuals or entities sharing a common address. Of these, 15 owners control 43 parcels, comprising

303,891 sq. ft., 62 percent of privately owned downtown land. The largest single holding covers the entire block, 51,046 sq. ft., east of Camino del Mar between 15th and 14th Streets. Five owners control holdings of 25,000 sq. ft. or more. Much of our downtown land is owned or controlled by just a few owners.

The 63 parcels within our downtown represent about 3.5 percent of all parcels within the City. But their combined value for property taxation, \$88.1 million, represents just two percent of the total \$2.1 billion taxable value for the entire City. The low taxable value of properties within the CC zone is the result of long-term ownership under Proposition 13. More than half these properties, 34 parcels, have not changed hands within the past ten years. Long-term investors in real property reap a windfall benefit under Proposition 13 because, regardless of market changes, property taxes cannot increase more than two percent per year.

In the current year, combined property tax payments to the City from these 63 parcels is only \$54,654, or 1.7 percent of the City's total property tax revenue of \$3.24 million. The average property tax payment to the City from owners of the 63 parcels is \$1,562; the median payment is \$1,096. (Note that the City receives only 11.6 percent of all property taxes paid in Del Mar.)

In summary:

- The land within the CC zone is divided into small individual parcels, half of which measure less than 6,825 sq. ft.
- A few investors own multiple parcels, resulting in a concentration of property ownership in the CC zone. Two-thirds of all parcels are owned by just 15 investors.
- Property within the CC zone contributes a disproportionately small percentage of the property taxes received by the City of Del Mar. The 63 parcels represent 3.5 percent of all parcels within the City, but contribute just 1.7 percent of the City's total property tax revenues.

In coming articles, we will explore how these and other factors, such as floor area ratio (FAR), parking and height restrictions affect the opportunities for downtown revitalization.



Key Milestone for Shores Campaign

By Joe Sullivan

On October 31 the campaign to acquire the Shores site for continued public use reached a critical milestone with a \$2.8 million payment due into escrow. Unless delayed by the fires, the fundraising committee expects this goal to have been met by the time the Sandpiper reaches your mailbox.

The Shores property, a 5.3 acre site in the middle of town, is no longer needed by the Del Mar Union School District. In late July the District agreed to sell the property to the city and the Winston School have undertaken an urgent campaign to raise funds from private donors.

Everyone agrees \$8.5 million is a fair price, but an aggressive goal for the fundraisers. The purchase agreement calls for a series of escrow payments to demonstrate success. A \$100,000 deposit was made on August 13, with an additional \$150,000 on August 31. The October 31 payment will bring the total deposited to over \$3 million. The next payment of \$1.45 million is due January 15, with the final payment of \$4 million due on February 28.

Any charitable fundraising campaign is a challenge, and this one is particularly so, due to the short escrow period. The committee has a few short months to organize and execute a capital campaign that would normally take two or three years to accomplish. For the past several weeks we have been contacting families who had previously expressed an interest in making leadership gifts. Over the next few months we will be reaching out to everyone in the Del Mar and Winston communities through personal solicitations, mailings, and events. Over thirty of your



neighbors have volunteered for the solicitation team, so you are likely to hear from one of them soon!

We are gratified by the enthusiastic and extremely generous response to date. With almost half the required funds in the bank or pledged, we are optimistic this unique property will be kept in the public trust rather than being sold to the highest bidder for residential or commercial development.

For more information see www.delmarparks.com.

Joe Sullivan co-chairs the Friends of the Parks with Laura DeMarco.

Public Workshop on the Future of the City Hall Site

What do YOU want to see there?

Saturday, Dec 1, 9:30 am
DMTV Studio

Another Train Station in Del Mar?

By David Druker

North County Transit District (NCTD) has proposed that a temporary train station be built closer to the Del Mar Fairgrounds than Solana Beach so that the Coaster can stop during the Fair, races and special events. The platform would be just west of Southfair on the eastern bypass track. Patrons of the fairgrounds will need to be bused from the stop to the Fairgrounds along the Del Mar public works driveway.

There are several issues that need to be resolved prior to Del Mar issuing an encroachment permit for the use of the public works driveway and for this platform to be built. These issues include: security, lighting both at the station and along the path to the fairgrounds, coastal permits, traffic control on Jimmy Durante, modifications to Jimmy Durante for a right turn into the platform area, limitations to parking and passenger drop-off and the general operation of the stop.

Currently, the 22nd Agricultural District has given NCTD

\$25,000 to design the platform. The whole cost of the project is estimated to be about one million dollars. At present there are no funds allocated or budgeted for this platform by NCTD, the 22nd Ag District or SANDAG. Once NCTD and the 22nd Ag District have completed their operations plans, the Del Mar City Council will have a public hearing about the proposal. This public hearing will probably not occur until February or March 2008. The actual construction of the platform will probably take about six to eight weeks once the funding, operations and permitting is resolved.

David Druker is Deputy Mayor of Del Mar.

Are You Ready, Del Mar?

Learn about how to prepare your household and to work with your neighbors in the event of a disaster. For information, or to schedule a neighborhood meeting, call Carol at 755-7821.

Fair Board: Blind Faith and Secrecy

By Jacqueline Winterer

The Del Mar Fairgrounds occupies 405-acres of State-owned properties at the mouth of the San Dieguito River. The larger of the two properties is west of I-5, with about 240 acres in Del Mar and 100 acres in San Diego on either side of Jimmy Durante Boulevard.



In December 2001 the Del Mar Fair Board issued a new Master Plan after holding a number of public hearings in 2000 and 2001. Since then an Environmental Impact Report (EIR) on the project is being prepared to comply with the California Environmental Quality Act. This Draft EIR is very long in coming, so much so that of the nine original Fair Board Members, only one, Barry Nussbaum is still on the board. Significant reports on the master plan are never made at Fair Board meetings and very little transpires on the new master plan's EIR progress. Outside of public meetings, the constraints of the Bagley-Keene Act (equivalent to the Brown Act for state agencies) limits policy discussions between Fair Board members to less than a majority, so that not only is the public left in the dark but so presumably are at least five of the Fair Board members. Although 8 out of 9 of these members did not participate in the elaboration of the Master Plan, none of them appears to show any curiosity about this multi-million-dollar project. As none of them lives nearby and as their non-elected status protects them from potential public dissatisfaction, they seem to accept in blind faith what may emerge from this thoroughly secretive process involving only Mr. Nussbaum and Mr. Fennell, Fairgrounds Manager.

The project review process for state properties in Del Mar is fundamentally different from that of local Del Mar projects. For example, at the present time the 25,000-sq.ft. Gas Station project (slightly over 1/2 acre) is undergoing a thorough review process with multiple meetings and a dialogue between the project proponents and the public.

For the Fairgrounds Master Plan, no more public input will have occurred between 2001 and January 2008 when

the Draft EIR will be published for a 90-day public comment period. The Del Mar segment of the Fairgrounds property is about 400 times bigger than the Gas Station property. After the 90 days review period and written comments have been submitted, the Fair Board will certify the Final EIR. It will then be reviewed by the California Coastal Commission, the only agency that has jurisdiction on this huge project.

For the people who live in Del Mar and who are concerned with view impacts, Fair Board staff has let be known some features of the buildings planned for the northern San Dieguito River bank: a 178,000 sq.ft exhibit hall on the west side and a 330 room condo-hotel where the present fire station is now located. The condo-hotel will be 43 feet high and hold a 182,000-sq.ft. ballroom. The fire station will probably be sited at the southern end of the main parking lot.

Those of us who worry about the protection of wetlands mandated by the 1976 Coastal Act, will advocate the permanent return of the south and east lots to wetland status. The Fairgrounds has used these well-documented wetlands for parking because a limited use of these lots was allowed before the adoption of the Coastal Act. Now that the project is undergoing a major revision, the project must comply with the Act and the wetlands should return to their natural protected status.

Little is known about the Traffic Study, which is of great concern because the new Master Plan intends to intensify the property uses, bringing more traffic, more of the time.

Jacqueline Winterer is President of the Friends of the San Dieguito Lagoon.

Art and Poetry Contest for Students

The California Coastal Commission invites California students in kindergarten through 12th grade to submit artwork or poetry with a California coastal or marine theme to the annual Coastal Art & Poetry Contest. Up to eight winners will be selected to win \$100 gift certificates to an art-supply or book store, and each winner's sponsoring teacher will receive a \$40 gift certificate for educational supplies. Students may have their work featured on Commission webpages and materials.

Entries must be postmarked by January 31, 2008 to be eligible for this year's contest.

For rules and entry form, visit www.coastforyou.org, email coast4u@coastal.ca.gov, or call (800) Coast-4U.

Gas Station to Cliffs to Garden

By Dwight Worden



Garden Del Mar is the name for the reformulation of the proposed development at the old Gas Station site at 10th and Camino Del Mar. In response to community input including local architects, the developers made a change in architects and a major change in project design to better reflect community desires. This new project design was featured at its open house held on October 6.

While the project design has changed significantly, for the better, the mix of uses remains about the same: 19,333 square feet of building space, plus two levels of underground parking, with a Floor Area Ratio of 75 % (the Central Commercial zone allows a 45% FAR). There are five proposed buildings, a restaurant, a café, retail along CDM, “flex space” that could be either office or retail behind the first row on Camino Del Mar, and offices in the balance of the project. The proposed height meets the 26-foot limit of zoning. Anyone interested can see the project plans on line at the City of Del Mar Web site: www.delmar.ca.us.

About 150 people stopped by the open house to look at the new project, the story poles, and to give their opinions on this new iteration of the project. The developers report that comments were overwhelmingly favorable and supportive of the new design and of the project in general, with its public spaces, more inviting entry, and attractive design. Tabulation of comments received will be available to the Gas Station Site Committee and the public when completed. Comments of concern were also received at the open house expressed by some as to potential view blockage and the overall size of the project.

The story poles erected for the Open House have since been modified to correctly reflect the height at or below the height of the existing white building on the site. Those who saw the story poles and the view impact at the open house should take another look at the modified poles. In discussions with the committee after the open house and the erection of the modified poles, the developers have indicated they are working to lower the heights even

more, hopefully by as much as an additional 12 to 18 inches. The goal is to eliminate view blockage of the ocean. We will all have to await the final design and another set of revised poles, but it is safe to say that things are already much better than they were at the open house in terms of project height and view blockage.

The project has not yet started its formal review by the City. All of the goings on so far are in response to Measure B and reflect an effort by the developers, the committee, and the community to help the developers “get it right” before they go through the city process and onto the ballot. To the credit of the developers, they have made some important changes to the project in response to input from the Gas Station Site Committee and the community: The Garden Del Mar looks to be an improved version of the project.

Many important issues still remain: What the “Exceptional Public Benefits” should be; how the project will manage and control traffic and parking impacts; what the impacts to the City are of having the project be the first in the City to offer retail and office condominiums; and how much retail the project can support. Community input on these and any other aspects of the project is welcome by the committee. A revised Draft Specific Plan is expected in the next few weeks that will begin review by the committee and the community. Your participation is welcome and encouraged.

Dwight Worden is member of the Gas Station Site Committee.

Local Dining

Continued from page 3

returning regulars. The Breeze also is dog-friendly.

Pacifica is one of Del Mar’s most frequented restaurants, especially during holidays. Private dining is available anytime for smaller groups (up to 12) in the Wine Room or in the Private Reserve Room for larger groups (up to 50). During holidays, early booking is necessary. Those looking for a less formal setting can reserve The Breeze for evening dinner parties al fresco.

Pacifica offers half-off regular price on its entire wine

inventory on Thursday nights and all-night happy hour on Mondays and Tuesdays. On Wednesdays, there is the popular \$5 martini night. Frequent diners should inquire about Pacifica’s dining club membership that brings instant rewards for future visits for an annual fee of \$20.

Pacifica is open weekdays from 11:30 am to 4:00 pm and 5:00 pm to closing; weekends from 11:00am to 4:00 pm and 5:00 pm to closing. Happy Hour at the bar is offered nightly from 4:00 pm to 6:30 pm and until closing on Mondays and Tuesdays. The Breeze is open from 8:00 am to 4:00 pm daily.

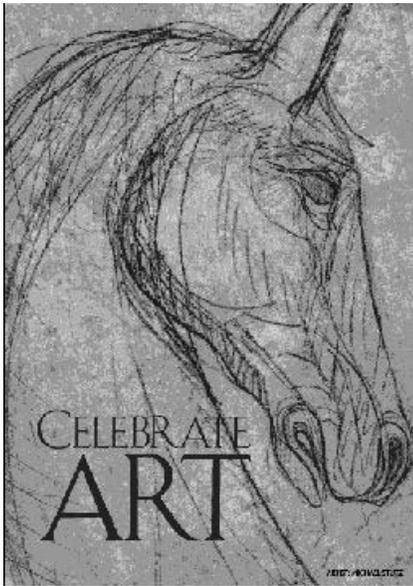
Liz and Wayne Dernetz are residents of Del Mar.

Celebrating the Horse as Art Object

By Nancy Johnson Sanquist

When looking at Michael Stutz's drawing for 'Hot-Rolled Equus', now on temporary loan on Camino del Mar, I could not help but think of Leonardo da Vinci's drawings of the of horse as one of the most magnificent figures in the history of art. Michael has also chosen to represent this animal as the model for his latest sculpture. In a recent article describing his cardboard maquette of the horse installed in a new show in Fallbrook, Michael said that he admires horses, and often attends the races in Del Mar. "I love to go see the horses run. That's what inspires me." He said he tried to leave room for the imagination when he crafted his horse sculpture, a 10-foot-tall bust made of wood and cardboard. Now Del Mar has the steel version.

"When 'horse people' look at a horse, many of them are judging it by a set of relatively rigid standards – its muscular structure, proportions, things like that," he said. "For me, it's about the energy and the emotion of the horse – almost like a sense of power."



The drawing on the left is by Michael Stutz and was a preliminary sketch for the horse which now graces the streets of Del Mar for a year on temporary loan. When the Del Mar Village Association's Public Art Committee visited Michael's studio to see the cardboard version of the horse they were considering for the first sculpture in their rejuvenation

schemes for the downtown, they knew they had found the right artist and work of art. Michael's cardboard coyote had once sauntered along Jimmy Durante Boulevard, as well as Santa Monica Blvd. in LA. A Stutz nude body can be seen flung over the roof of the W Hotel next to the SFMOCA and now his steel horse elegantly stands for all to see as they shop in Ryan's new boutique or have morning coffee at Starbucks. Michael is no stranger to this community having lived here before moving to Fallbrook and often visits his wife's parents who are still residents in Del Mar.

In celebration of the installation of 'Hot-Rolled Equus' the DMVA Design Committee held an artist's reception in September and in a continuing collaboration with the

artist, a cardboard sculpting workshop was conducted by Michael on 21 October. See www.dmvamainstreet.com for the details of other public art events and stop by and pay tribute to the newest member of the Del Mar Streetscape Program. Or better yet, help us keep 'Hot-Rolled Equus' in Del Mar by contributing funds for its purchase. Remember, as Leonardo mused, "It should not be hard for you to stop sometimes and look into the stains of walls, or ashes of a fire, or clouds, or mud or like places, in which... you may find really marvelous ideas." Or beautiful steel horses on your own streets!

Nancy Johnson Sanquist is VP of the Design Committee, DMVA.



November First Thursday

The Cultural Arts Committee of the Del Mar Foundation presented "An Evening of Gershwin" at its First Thursday event on October 4. Professor Cecil Lytle delighted the crowd with his performance of a large variety of Gershwin music on the concert grand piano, accompanied by Bert Turetsky on bass and Ronnie Stewart on drums. Professor Lytle described the program: "The concert includes the music and words of the Gershwins, George and Ira. We seek to reveal a side of their professional and personal lives through their music and letters, to from, and about the Gershwins" Arthur Wagner provided dramatic voice to those letters in the performance.

The program concluded with a masterful performance of "Rhapsody in Blue" leaving the packed crowd to respond with thunderous applause and all were on their feet.

November Community Calendar

DMCC Knit & Stitch Group: Thursday, November 1, Del Mar Library, 3 pm. No charge, just bring knitting or a project.

First Thursday: November 1: "Manuelita Brown and Lana Wilson, Bronze and Clay: Two Lives in Art", Powerhouse Community Center. The Del Mar Foundation's Cultural Arts Committee welcomes subscribers to Wine & Cheese at 6:30 pm, program at 7 pm.

Planning Commission: November 1, 6 pm, DMTV Station. Special Workshop on Possible Zone Code amendments to aid revitalization.

Daylight Savings Time Ends: Sunday, November 4.

Children's Music Concert Series: Sunday November 4: "The Squeegees – a fun-filled, bubbly acoustic duo", 1 pm, Powerhouse Community Center.

DMCC Special Presentation: Monday, November 5: "How To Stay on Top of Your Medicare Benefits", speakers from HICAP and the Center for Consumer Health Advocacy, 10am, City Hall Annex; Free.

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

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

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

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

Producers Showcase: Thursday, November 8, 6 pm, Del Mar TV Studios. The purpose is to hone skills and develop programs of interest to local viewers.

DMVA Design Committee: Friday, November 9, 9 am, City Hall Annex.

DMCC "Silver Age" Yoga Classes: Fridays, beginning November 9, 10 am, St. Peter's Parish Hall.

DMCC Monthly Board Meeting: Saturday, November 10, 9 am, City Hall Annex.

Friends of San Diego River Valley Bus Tour of Lagoon: Saturday, Nov. 10, 9 am or 11 am from Del Mar City Hall Parking lot. For reservations, call Barbara Baker at 674-2270. Tours are free of charge.

Del Mar TV Foundation Board Meeting: Monday, November 12, 8:30 am. Monthly meeting to review/approve grants and other business.

Preschool Spanish and English Bilingual Story Time, Tuesday, November 13, 10:30 am, Del Mar Library.

Del Mar Planning Commission: Tuesday, November 13, 6 pm, Del Mar TV Station.

DMVA Promotion Committee: Wednesday, November 14, 9 am, Del Mar TV Studio.

Community Meeting: Midterm Update on San Dieguito Wetlands Restoration Project: Wednesday, November 14, 6–8 pm, Powerhouse Community Center.

Friends of the San Dieguito River Valley Art Show & Sale: Sunday, November 18, 10 am–4 pm, Powerhouse Community Center.

Del Mar Arts Center Board Meeting: Monday, November 19, 6:30 pm, Del Mar Arts Center.

Historical Society Monthly Meeting: Tuesday, November 20, 7 pm, City Hall Annex.

Friends of the Powerhouse Board Meeting: Wednesday, November 21, 9 am, Jakes.

Del Mar Television Foundation Producers Meeting: Wednesday, November 21, 6:30 pm, Del Mar TV Studios. A networking meeting for those interested in developing programs for DMTV.

Thanksgiving: Thursday, November 22.

DMVA Economic Restructuring Committee: Wednesday, November 28, 9 am, L'Auberge Del Mar Resort & Spa Lobby.

Del Mar Design Review Board: Wednesday, November 28, 6 pm, Del Mar TV Station.

DMCC Senior Legal Services: Friday, November 30, 9 am to 1 pm, 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. For appointments, call DMCC: 792-7565.

DM + SB = Better Service, \$\$ Saved

By Linda Niles

During the past budget review cycle (FY 07/08), staff of the City of Del Mar approached the City of Solana Beach about the sharing of an in-house building department and the discontinuation of the full time use of consultant assistance for the building plan check, permit and inspection services for both cities. Together Solana Beach and Del Mar staff set about to determine the cost effectiveness and the overall benefit to both cities' residents to share in-house building services. This past September both Del Mar and Solana Beach City Councils approved the staff proposals, and plans for implementation have been activated.

Currently both cities are using EsGil Corporation for building services that have been dispensed from the public counter at the City of Encinitas City Hall. Prior to 2004 the County of San Diego Building Department administered building permits, building plan checks and

building inspections for the City of Del Mar. To transition from EsGil both cities' staff formulated a workload ratio from the past three years of volume and arrived at a cost-sharing ratio of 70%/30% for Solana Beach and Del Mar respectively. It was estimated that two full-time personnel are required to handle efficiently the workload: a Building Official and a Building Inspector. The Building Official will be hired by early November. After the transition process of two to three months, the new Building Department operations will begin in-house operation for the Cities of Del Mar and Solana Beach by early 2008.

Sharing in-house Building Services with the City of Solana Beach will improve service delivery and cost efficiency. Del Mar residents will enjoy an even more convenient location at Solana Beach City Hall and a central building and planning counter for Solana Beach residents. Basic assistance to Del Mar residents by our Planning staff will continue at the Del Mar Planning Counter.

Linda Niles is Planning Director for the City of Del Mar.

Local Middle Scholars Get on Board

By Susan Miller

If you see kids with surfboards tucked under their arms, eagerly heading towards Powerhouse Park in the middle of a weekday, don't be surprised – chances are, they're not playing hooky but are attending Physical Education class through Earl Warren Middle School (EWMS). The newly offered Surf P.E. class, in its first year, is already a huge hit with students. Over one hundred 7th and 8th graders signed up for EWMS Surf P.E., which meets twice weekly for 90 minutes at Del Mar Beach.

Anna Pedroza, Principal of EWMS, recently spoke with the Sandpiper about Surf P.E. and other new EWMS programs. Ms. Pedroza, a longtime resident of Del Mar, has invested much time and energy in EWMS – originally as a student, then as a teacher, now as Principal. She is passionate about our local middle school, its students and their families.

Why offer Surf P.E.?

We are the smallest middle school in the district and are always looking for ways to enhance programs for current students as well as attract new students. When we



surveyed parents and students, we received requests for new course offerings in P.E. and other areas. In addition to Surf P.E., we introduced a Skate P.E. class, which meets at the Magdalena Ecke YMCA Skate Park in Encinitas. Besides P.E. courses, we introduced electives such as a Japanese language course, a Digital Arts course where kids have the opportunity to learn Adobe Photoshop and flash animation in our new computer lab, and Math X, where "X" stands for exploration, extension and excitement, used to further math learning above and beyond grade level.

What were the challenges to offering Surf P.E.?

No major challenges, but we couldn't have done all this without the support of the Del Mar Lifeguards under Pat Vergne's leadership, along with many others in the community, including Uriah Mirandon of Surf Sessions, who provided two days of lessons at no charge. We spent the first couple of days going over safety in the water, surf etiquette and respecting each other and the beach, so the students are well-prepared and informed.

What feedback have you received about Surf P.E. from students and parents?

They absolutely love it. I had a student the other day tell me about how small the waves were that day, and I responded to him, 'You're kidding me...you're leaving here at 12:30, and you're complaining about the waves!' But seriously, they love it and I think parents are proud that kids have the opportunity to take part in it. I believe we're the only middle school around that offers Surf P.E. It's wonderful that we're able to take advantage of our proximity to the ocean while enhancing the students' physical fitness and their appreciation of our natural environment. It is such an honor to serve at one of the greatest middle schools in our area – we have great kids, teachers and parents, plus incredible community support.

Susan Miller is a resident of Del Mar.

What's Going on at the Lagoon?

By Leslie Woollenweber

Is it a condo project? A new hotel under construction? "No!" to both questions. It's a wetlands-restoration project – a significant ecological milestone for Del Mar and the San Dieguito River. The project should take about three years total and has a budget of \$86 million. After only one year, the project is on schedule and a significant amount of work has been accomplished already.

Future work will include dredging the river to connect it to the recently created deep-water basin, and planting salt-marsh vegetation. A related project is just getting underway to restore native vegetation along the north bank of the river and construct a walking trail through the area.

Two important events related to the San Dieguito Lagoon

take place this month: a tour and a community meeting. Free guided-bus tours of the San Dieguito Lagoon are offered by the Friends of the San Dieguito River Valley on November 10 (by reservation only). Departures are either 9am or 11am from the Del Mar City Hall Parking lot. Make reservations with Barbara at 674-2270.

Southern California Edison and Marathon Construction Corporation are inviting the community to attend a Midterm Community Meeting to provide a progress report on the San Dieguito Lagoon Wetlands Restoration Project. Mark your calendars for Wednesday, November 14, from 6 pm to 8 pm at the Powerhouse Community Center. Come learn more about this important restoration project, meet members of the project team, and see visual displays on various components of the project. Light food fare and beverages will be provided, so don't miss it!

Leslie Woollenweber is a resource specialist with the San Dieguito River Valley Conservancy.



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.

Monday, November 5: Medicare – How to Stay on Top of Your Medicare Benefits. City Hall Annex, 10 am. Coffee and refreshments served. Ask the experts about Medicare: Be prepared for the new Medicare Part D (prescription drug plan) enrollment deadline. Learn about Supplementing Medicare, Medicare Part D, Medicare Advantage, Low Income Assistance, Billing and Claims, Appeals. Counselors from The Health Insurance Counseling and Advocacy Program of California (HICAP) and Center for Consumer Health Advocacy will talk about the most current information. Keep informed about your benefits! Reservations recommended.

Friday, November 9: NEW Class YOGA led by Silver Age Yoga for Seniors, 10 to 11 am at St. Peter's Parish Hall. FREE! Silver Age Yoga is a gentle physical activity. The activities are tailored to meet widely varied physical capabilities and limitations of participants. This activity is done with chairs or on the floor. Chairs will be provided. Participants who prefer to work on the floor need to provide their own yoga mat.

Monday, December 10: Holiday Tea. Celebrate the season with sweets, savories and song at St. Peter's Parish Hall 1:30 to 3 pm.

Important: Health Care Decisions Week Oct. 28 to Nov. 4. Before a crisis happens, talk with your loved ones and complete an advanced directive.

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 11:30 am, 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.sdadulted.com. Three classes at the Powerhouse start Sept. 4; end November 2. Tues. & Thurs. 8 am, 9 am or 10 am for low-impact and chair support. \$15.

Life Story Classes: With Mai Lon Gittelsohn at St. Peter's Library.

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

Warm Water Aerobics Class for Del Mar Seniors: Monday and Wednesday, 12 to 1 pm at Noonan Family Swim School, Jimmy Durante Blvd. Fee: \$6/class or \$30 for 6 classes. Register in class. For more information call DMCC, 792-7565 or Eleanor Conlon, 792-8167. Also offered: arthritis warm water class for anyone with arthritis; open to residents throughout the area; meets on Thursdays, 12 to 1 pm 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: Thursday, Nov. 1 at the Del Mar Library, 3 to 4:30 pm. Bring your own project. Call Regina Horner, 755-1931.

DMCC's Senior Legal Services: Last Friday of the month (Nov. 30), 9 am to 1 pm. Attorney provides advanced healthcare directive, power of attorney, wills, referrals and much more. FREE for seniors 60 and older in the 92014 zip code area. Must call DMCC, 792-7565, for appointment.

Shuttle Bus Service: DMCC shuttle bus provides pick-up at City of Del Mar residents' homes and takes them on alternate Wednesdays to Henry's and to Trader Joe's (Encinitas); on Thursdays to 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, Nov. 10 to tour the San Dieguito Lagoon wetlands and restoration project. Free. Call 674-2275, ext. 14 to reserve.

Take a Load off Your Mind and Your Feet! Call DMCC!

For residents of the City of Del Mar.

Need a ride and can't drive to a medical appointment or to a procedure that your doctor insists that you are not to drive? Need a ride for you and your pet to the vet? Call DMCC for a ride!

Need to shop for those big and heavy items at the grocery store especially that holiday turkey? Take the DMCC bus, and we will carry those loads into your house!

Need a prescription picked up from the pharmacy and you are feeling under the weather? Call DMCC to pick it up! Need to buy taxi vouchers quickly and can't get to our office? Call DMCC, and we will deliver!

All available with our volunteer drivers.

Bird Attacks Man in Del Mar

By Ed Mirsky

Every year the ocean beyond the surfers is visited by wandering pelagic birds. These birds tend to shy away from the sight of land preferring to cruise the oceans on stiffly beating wings, shearing the ocean surface in tireless flight. These are the shearwaters. Birds adapted to a life at sea.

Each fall shearwaters visit southern California. This August there were reports of visits by Cory's Shearwater off Islas Coronados, Mexico, Pink-footed Shearwater west off the tip of Point Loma to west of Solana Beach, Sooty Shearwater west of tip of Point Loma to west of Solana Beach, Black-vented Shearwater off La Jolla Cove to west of Solana Beach, and Newell's Shearwater in Del Mar. What's that, a Newell's Shearwater in Del Mar? Not out to sea but in Del Mar?

The August e-newsletter of the San Diego Natural History Museum (SDNHM) reported that around 3am on August 1, a bird was observed repeatedly attacking a member of a crew working on stabilization of the sea bluffs along the railroad tracks. Suspecting that the light from the headlamp on his hardhat attracted the bird, he turned the light off, but the bird continued to dive at him. It eventually crashed into a large metal box and fell to the ground stunned.

What is Newell's Shearwater? Newell's Shearwater belongs to the Manx-Shearwater species complex. The Manx Shearwaters are found beating their way about the Atlantic Ocean. Another member of the group, the



Black-vented Shearwater, shears the waters of the Pacific. Avian taxonomists may be divided into two groups: lumpers and splitters. The splitters call the population of shearwaters of the Manx Shearwater group nesting on the Hawaiian Islands Newell's Shearwater and recognize them as distinct species; whereas the lumpers call them Manx Shearwaters preferring to recognize them as a subspecies of the Manx Shearwater. There is

anatomical justification for this taxonomy. The Manx Shearwater has a white vent, the Black-vented shearwater; well, it has a black vent, and the Newell's Shearwater has a little white and a little black about its vent. That's how Phil Unitt, curator of ornithology at the SDNHM identified it. Yep, he picked up its tail and took a look.

What was it doing in Del Mar? In Hawaii, Newell's Shearwater, or A'o (the Hawaiian name), forages

over deep water east and south of the Hawaiian Islands, primarily in the Equatorial Countercurrent, between 4° and 10° north latitude. Each year thousands of Black-vented Shearwater are seen off the coast. Over the years there have been reports of Manx Shearwater visiting southern California. It is not known if these birds were Newell's Shearwater.

Was it attracted to the light? There are reports of Newell's Shearwaters being attracted to light sources and falling to the ground exhausted after fluttering around the lights for long periods of time. Many pelagic birds fish at night, guided to prey species by the natural bioluminescence of their prey. Newell's Shearwaters depend on predatory fish such as tuna to drive prey species to the surface of the ocean. So I suspect that it is one of those species that is attracted to luminescence.

It's reports of shearwaters and other pelagic birds that keep birders like me looking out to sea beyond the surfers.

Ed Mirsky lives in Del Mar.

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