

SANDPIPER

Jerry Finnell, A Community Leader

By Penny Abell

People knew Jerry Finnell as a wise, patient friend and public figure, and as a fun guy.

Jerry loved to dance. His renowned sense of responsibility was not his only reason for attending and supporting all the Del Mar fundraisers and community events. He loved sharing good times with his wife Kathy and his many friends.

Jerry succumbed to pneumonia on Tuesday, February 19, after a tough fight against acute myeloid leukemia, initially diagnosed in September 2006. Flags in the City were at half-staff in his honor.

Long-time City Council member Mayor David Druker characterized Jerry as a passionate colleague who rarely showed his emotions but was totally committed to the good of the City: "Jerry was the best Council colleague I've known in avoiding partisanship and self-interest."

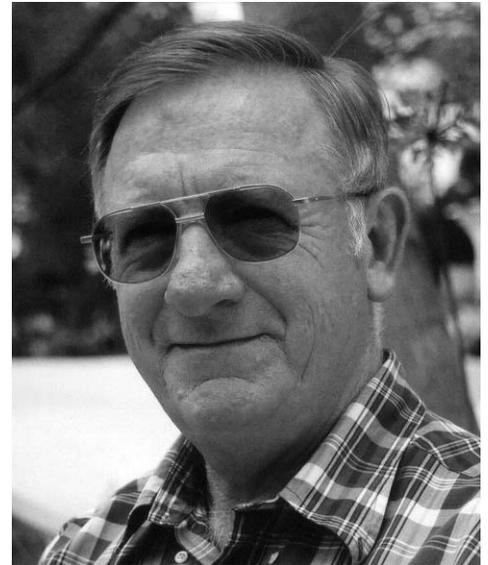
Jerry, with siblings Marilyn, Carolyn and Larry, grew up in tiny Kelso, California. Jerry attended a one-room schoolhouse through the eighth grade. Having mastered the math curriculum, he helped teach the other children during his last two years. An accident shortly after high

school graduation resulted in a permanent injury to his left hand, crushing Jerry's dream of playing baseball professionally. As his Del Mar pals know, he maintained his athletic activity as an enthusiastic tennis player.

Jerry was an irrepressible party guy in his first two years of college. With a nudge from the UCLA academic dean he then began to earn straight "A"s. After graduation, Jerry immediately passed his CPA exam and went to work for Peat, Marwick, Mitchell & Co in Los Angeles and remained with the company through all its mergers. He retired as a senior partner of KPMG in 1995. He and Kathy moved from Chicago to Del Mar in 1996.

Known for their ability to make quick, sensible decisions, Jerry and Kathy agreed to marry in September 1963 after

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Sandpiper to Launch Website

See announcement on page 9

Also In This Issue:



Scaling the Lifeguard Tower, see page 7.



The San Dieguito Lagoon today. For some history, see page 6.



Trestles, as it might have become. See page 12.

Del Mar's Human Resources

Our community lost an extraordinary leader when Jerry Finnell left us. Much has been said about Jerry's rich biography and there is even more to learn from Jerry and Kathy's model of civic patriotism. When they retired to Del Mar they hit the ground running with civic involvement. They chose Del Mar because they loved it and made a commitment to work to preserve the qualities

that attracted them. No committee, no volunteer activity, no organizing work was beneath them. They dug in, worked tirelessly with good humor, and did not seek out the limelight—no big heads for them. Ironically, it was those self-effacing qualities that attracted others to their leadership capabilities and ultimately to leadership roles, including Jerry's mayoral election.

In our view, Jerry's most enduring legacy to us all will be this model of civic activism. Del Mar has achieved its distinctive reputation, not because of its natural resources, but because of its human resources—hundreds of citizens who have worked to protect those natural resources and a quality of life that is very rare in today's world. Jerry was in the top tier of our community's human resources.

Obama, McCain Win Del Mar

By Bud Emerson

The California primary election results on February 4 show Del Mar voters preferring Obama as the Democratic nominee and McCain as the Republican nominee.

Remember that Del Mar has 2941 registered voters: 1090 Republicans, 1043 Democrats, and 695 Independents. The turnout for this election was 59% including 24% absentee voters. Independents were not allowed to vote on the Republican ballot but could vote on the Democratic ballot. Still to be counted, countywide are 59,000 absentee ballots--the final official count will be released in March.

First the Republican results: County-wide McCain got 40% to Romney's 39% while Huckabee garnered 9%. In Del Mar, McCain got 279 votes to Romney's 210, with Huckabee getting 29 and Paul 24. In the 50th Congressional district, which includes Del Mar, McCain beat Romney 41% to 40%, with Huckabee getting 8%.

On the Democratic side Clinton's vote was 50% countywide to Obama's 44%. In Del Mar, Obama won handily getting 548 votes to Clinton's 328. In the 50th Clinton beat Obama 48% to 47%.

On the ballot propositions, community college funding lost 60% to 40% in the county. In Del Mar it lost 941 votes to 550. The term limits prop lost countywide 52% to 48%. In Del Mar it lost very narrowly 790 to 745 votes. Indian gaming won countywide 59% to 41%. In Del Mar these propositions won 919 votes to 639.

If the final official tally differs significantly, we will report any differences in next month's issue.

Bud Emerson is a resident of Del Mar.

Jerry Finnell

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only five months of dating. Their children, Donald with his wife Yuan Qi and Jennifer with her husband Grant Hogg, live in San Diego. During Jerry's illness, the brightest new light in his life was Donald's son Jason, born in November 2006, just two months after Jerry's initial diagnosis.

Once Jerry retired to Del Mar, he became the quintessential community volunteer, serving as the founding Board Treasurer for Del Mar Community Connections, City Finance Committee chair, community utilities undergrounding leader, and Del Mar Mayor and multiterm City Councilor. His kindness, moderation, intelligence, work ethic, and generosity solved problems and made Del Mar a better place to live.

"Any time a person envisions the long term possibilities, and persistently works with others to achieve a better future- that is leadership. Jerry was a leader," said Terry Sinnott, neighbor and volunteer colleague.

We will miss Jerry Finnell.

Penny Abell is a resident 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

All staff members and writers are unpaid volunteers. This publication depends upon the contributions of readers like you.

Make checks payable to **Sandpiper**, Box 2177, Del Mar, CA 92014

The family requests that memorial donations be directed to The Gerald Finnell Memorial Fund for AML Research. Checks payable to the UCSD Foundation should be sent to:

Moores Cancer Center, ATTN: Pam Warner
3855 Health Sciences Drive 0658, La Jolla, CA 92093

Exceptional Public Benefits Debated

By Art Olson

On February 11, the Gas Station Site Specific Plan Steering Committee (GSSPSC) devoted its entire meeting to the issue of Exceptional Public Benefit (EPB) to be provided with the Garden Del Mar project proposed for the site. Because the proposed plan exceeds the underlying development standards, Measure B requires compensatory benefits to the community that go beyond any ordinary benefits of the project itself. Over the past year and a half, over 60 different ideas for such EPBs have been suggested. Many people anticipated that the meeting would turn into a battle among community groups vying for their favorite project, but in fact only a few new suggestions were put forward, and the discussion was quite congenial. While it is not the role of the Committee to decide which EPBs should be part of the Specific Plan that go to the ballot for citizen approval, they are expected to recommend a list of candidate benefits to the City Council to help move the process along.

Of the new ideas put forward at the meeting, one by Joe Sullivan generated the most discussion and seemed to have the greatest appeal with the committee. He suggested a fund for maintenance and improvements of the public park at the Shores Property that the City is in the process of acquiring from the School District. Once the land becomes City property, he argued, there would be a continuing need for upkeep and improvement, which is not covered in projected city budgets. The fact that the Shores property is close to the proposed Garden Del Mar development, would be an extra benefit for the neighbors that are most impacted by the project. Committee member Brooke Eisenberg-Pike questioned the notion of recommending an EPB for a property that is not yet in City hands, and whose fate may not be firmly established by the proposed November ballot date.

Chuck Newton recommended using funds from the EPB to acquire additional land for parking spaces in the Downtown area as a way of aiding commercial



revitalization. Rick Ehrenfeld argued that whatever the EPB is, it should primarily mitigate the impact of the project for the immediate neighbors. Committee members assured those present that such mitigation was part of the project and not considered an “extraordinary” benefit. Art Olson, a committee member, speaking as a private citizen, recommended that the EPB be used to endow an Urban Forest and Fire Safety Fund to “address the needs of the community for active improvement of Del Mar’s urban forest environment with a focus on fire safety.” He argued that a strategic plan to accomplish this was written and approved in 1999, but due to costs and other city priorities, has not been implemented.

After public input, the committee went down the list of all of the ideas that have been collected to date. While a set of recommendations did not emerge, several of the suggestions appeared to rise to the top. Among those favorably discussed were: the Shores Park maintenance fund; Streetscape planning and implementation; and funds for Del Mar’s affordable-housing program. The critical issue of the scale of the exceptional public benefit was discussed briefly, but a more in-depth discussion was postponed until the next committee meeting.

Art Olson is a member of The Gas Station Site Specific Plan Steering Committee.

Update on Shores Campaign

By Barbara Mandel Pache

The Del Mar City Council has requested a one-year extension of the February 28 escrow date from the Del Mar School District Board for the purchase of the Del Mar Shores Property. The extension would provide the school district with an extra \$440,000 in cash to be used for current operating needs, allow the campaign to raise the needed \$4 million, and would be the best option for all involved.

When a small group of community members launched the campaign to raise \$8.5 million to purchase the property and preserve it for recreational and educational

purposes, everyone knew that the seven-month time period was ambitious. What no one could have foreseen was that real-estate prices would significantly decline, or that the stock market would drop precipitously, let alone that the October fires would thwart fundraising efforts.

What we continue to count on is the commitment and support of community members to contribute towards these efforts to assure that we retain this jewel for open space in our community. Please join us today. You should have received a mailer requesting support. Use the enclosed envelope or make your contribution online at www.delmarparks.org, or call Kelly at The Winston School at 858-259-8155. Please let the community know you value the Shores Property.

Barbara Mandel Pache coordinates the Shores Campaign.

Crest Canyon Makes Many New Friends

By Leslie Wollenweber

November brought together several residents from the neighborhoods surrounding Crest Canyon with an interest in forming a brand new stewardship group to help maintain this special vegetation community.



Crest Canyon is a gem in the far western corner of the San Dieguito River Park and a beautiful example of the upland habitat that surrounds and complements the San Dieguito Lagoon. Comprising 134 acres of coastal sage scrub and torrey pines, the canyon is home to the coastal California gnatcatcher, a federally designated threatened species. Unique and rare plants grace the canyon as well, including short-leaved dudleya, Del Mar sand aster and Del Mar manzanita.

The San Dieguito River Valley Conservancy began assisting the City of San Diego, who owns most of the canyon, in maintaining Crest Canyon Open Space Park Preserve with a volunteer force many years ago. The results have been dramatic and transforming, allowing native coastal sage scrub habitat to recover in areas where hard-working volunteers have cleared invasive, non-native plants.

This volunteer effort culminated in the formation of the Friends of Crest Canyon last Fall, in partnership with the Sierra Club's Canyons Campaign. Forty-eight locals enjoyed a walking tour of the canyon in September to learn about the special nature of the area and its relationship to the lagoon. Soon after, many followed up by expressing interest in continuing the work of Conservancy volunteers, and the Friends were off and running.

The Canyons Campaign seeks to get local residents involved in the stewardship of San Diego's urban canyons, and 40 Friends groups have been established so far. The new Friends of Crest Canyon, made up of local residents with an interest in maintaining the natural character of the canyon, will continue to help the cities of San Diego and Del Mar with removal of invasives, trail maintenance, habitat restoration and erosion control in the years to come.

Hikers and other nature enthusiasts can access the easy 0.8-mile trail from trailheads at Racetrack View Drive and Durango Drive. The Friends host monthly work events in the canyon, currently on the third Saturday from 9:30 to 11:30am. The group also meets quarterly to discuss organizational priorities and opportunities for public education. To participate in an upcoming work party or learn more about the Friends of Crest Canyon, contact Catie Fyfe at cfyfe@sierraclubsandiego.org or (619) 255-6073.

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

Roof It and They Will Come

By Dawn Rawls

A "field of dreams" or a field of parking? With the Fairgrounds' (22nd District Agricultural Association or DAA) proposal to cover the open-air arena on the northwest portion of the paved parking lot, the DAA will host more horse events and an increased number of concerts in that arena. And those events will only add to local traffic and noise, in addition to increasing potential pollution in local waters.

With a new roof and concrete floor, this arena becomes a year-round facility. The environmental documents issued by the DAA posit only 12 events per year in the roofed arena, seven horse events and five concerts. Neither common sense nor past experience of the Fairgrounds' expanding events schedule would suggest that the

expense of this project would be incurred to accommodate so few events per year.

Although the arena will have a complete roof, some of the walls will not meet the roof. Will the concert noise be better contained or will it be funneled through the unenclosed spaces of the building? The DAA asserts the former. Del Mar residents on the northern edges of the City and up along the Crest Canyon corridor will only find out once the concerts begin.

Clean water is always an issue when absorbent ground is covered with impermeable surfaces, which will happen when the new roof covers an area where rain is currently absorbed by the arena's present-day dirt floor. In reviewing the environmental document (a mitigated negative declaration or MND), Del Mar city staff worked with Fairgrounds staff to urge adequate storm-water and sewage management to prevent pollution of the San Dieguito River, lagoon and ocean. Integral to this effort

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DMVA Unveils New Study, New Signs

By Wayne Dernetz

February was a busy month for the Del Mar Village Association and its Executive Director, Jen Grove. The big news came early in the month with the unveiling of the long-awaited Revitalization Plan for Del Mar Village by Kennedy Smith, principal of the Arlington, Virginia consulting firm, Community Land Use and Economics Group (CLUE).

More than 10 months in preparation, the Village Revitalization Plan is a marketing study aimed at identifying ways to improve the business climate for Del Mar's retail businesses. The Plan touts Del Mar's many virtues – its beautiful beaches, legendary racetrack, scenic vistas, small-town character, quaint village and relaxed attitude. It also identifies challenges that face other older, traditional town centers, among them parking, pedestrian access and traffic circulation. But among the problems unique to Del Mar, described as "inadvertent byproducts of goals that are central to the [downtown] district's character," are the intermingling of offices with retail uses, the current inflexible height restrictions along Camino del Mar, high regulatory and financial burdens on new development, and the City's reliance on private funding for implementing Del Mar Streetscape.

The plan's recommendations include promoting retail concentrations that serve both community residents and visitors, and encouraging convenience-oriented retail businesses (groceries, hardware, books and magazine shops). Longer-term recommendations include making permanent the City's "horizontal zoning" ordinance, developing a "form-based" code to guide design and development decisions, initiating a land-pooling program to encourage private owners to cooperate with one another for new development, and expediting completion of the City's Streetscape Plan with public funding.



The 105-page Revitalization Plan for Del Mar Village, along with an accompanying 42-page survey of opinions and comments on the Del Mar Village, can be found at the DMVA website, <http://www.delmarmainstreet.com>.

DMVA also revealed plans for installing two new Del Mar entrance signs at the northern and southern ends of Camino del Mar. Both entry signs will consist of two

stacked slabs of Elk Mountain Stone from Wyoming, each eight feet in length by three feet in width, handpicked for their complementary appearance to the natural sandstone of the area. The new Del Mar logo, consisting of a stylized Torrey Pine branch with the words "Del Mar" engraved in metal will be attached to the stacked stones.

The project is a cooperative effort of the DMVA and the City of Del Mar. Laura Parker, Del Mar resident and local developer, volunteered to oversee the design project. Ms. Parker said it took two years to complete because of the challenging search for the perfect shape and size of the four slabs and the time needed to obtain design and bid approvals. DMVA announced this project is just one of several sign improvements it hopes to put in place.

Wayne Dernetz is a resident of Del Mar.

Roof It

Continued from page 4

is a long-awaited Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the Fairgrounds and the cities of Del Mar and San Diego. This MOU will restrict sewer flows, including storm water runoff diverted to the sewer, so that sewage flows through Del Mar's system and on into the sewer pipes of San Diego do not cause sewage spills. The San Dieguito Lagoon Committee, a citizen committee serving the City Council for many years, has long advocated that this MOU, in addition to better storm-water management, must be in place before Coastal Commission permits for this project are sought by the DAA.

What's next? When the 22nd DAA issued their Arena Roof MND last summer, various state, county and city entities provided comments. The revised MND, issued in December, addressed these comments and made some adjustments to the original plans. In a letter, dated Feb 6, responding to the revised MND, Del Mar's City Council stated: "The outstanding issues include (1) finalizing the Draft Sewer MOU prior to construction of the project, (2) referencing the new Water Quality Technical Report in the Revised MND and making it a required mitigation measure for the project, (3) adding required final reviews by the City of Del Mar as a requirement in the MND for wash rack design and compliance with FEMA standards, (4) addressing cut-through traffic in a more comprehensive manner, (5) tightening the air-quality mitigation measures, and (6) requiring post-project noise monitoring as a mitigation measure for the project."

If these issues are not resolved before the DAA applies for a coastal development permit from the California Coastal Commission, Del Mar's recourse will be to make our case to the Commission for appropriate conditions to be placed on this project before construction permits are obtained. Meanwhile we will know that our Del Mar staff, the Lagoon Committee and Council will persevere on our behalf.

Dawn Rawls is the current chair of the San Dieguito Lagoon Committee.

A Brief History of the Lagoon

By Jacqueline Winterer

At the end of the 19th century, the San Dieguito Lagoon was a thousand-acre wetland that included salt and brackish marsh, tidal embayments, sloughs and mudflats that were progressively developed for a variety of commercial and residential uses.

In the 1930's some of the lagoon wetlands north of the San Dieguito River were filled and became a golf course, encouraged by the State of California Swamp Reclamation Act. After four years, saltwater intrusions caused abandonment of the golf course.

In 1933, California legalized on-track wagering on horse races. The State's share of revenues was intended to support fairground operations and contribute to training youth in agricultural and animal husbandry. The golf course was purchased by the State Division of Fairs and Expositions and on October 8, 1936, Bing Crosby founded the Del Mar Turf Club and the first harness race took place.

South of the river, the Navy established an emergency landing field in the late 1920's. That property was later developed as a municipal airport to serve the racing patrons at the Del Mar Fairgrounds.

In 1941, after Pearl Harbor, the US Navy re-acquired this airport to use as a base for two lighter-than-air dirigibles. The blimps refueled at Del Mar and then continued anti-submarine patrols up and down the coast up to 100 miles offshore. The Grand Avenue Bridge off San Dieguito Drive was built at that time to provide access to the blimp airport.

During WW II the Fairground buildings became barracks, galleys and mess halls, officers' recreational facilities and classrooms.

In September 1945, the naval facility was disestablished and the fairgrounds and racetrack were returned to their earlier use. The Navy retained ownership of the airfield until 1947 when 80 acres were quitclaimed to San Diego County for one dollar.

The airfield site became a municipal airport until it was closed 1959 as construction for Interstate 5 bisected the runway. Various businesses occupied the old airport buildings: a motel with 12 rooms; Tony's Jacal; a worm-castings business; and a duck-shooting club.

In 1953, the western part of the airfield was leased by Andrew Kay's Non-Linear Systems. The buildings were converted into a manufacturing plant for digital voltmeters. This company produced the "Kaypro" one of the first personal computers. After Kaypro moved to Solana Beach in 1968, the site was unused.

Attempts, to save, and restore the San Dieguito Lagoon, date back to the 1970's when more and more people chose to come and live in the coastal area. In Del Mar, environmentally minded local residents saw that, unless efforts were made to protect specific habitats this valley would end up looking like San Diego River Valley with its big shopping centers and immense parking lots. They formed a Lagoon Preservation Committee and with the



Richard and Pat Nixon arrive at Del Mar Airport.

support of the Del Mar City Council, a Lagoon Enhancement Plan was created and adopted in 1979 as part of the City's General Plan. The plan was later endorsed by the City of San Diego and was certified by the California Coastal Commission,

In 1987, Bircher-Pacific, a developer, bought the old airport area. It sought to amend the Lagoon Enhancement Plan to permit development of two 300-room hotels, a shopping center, an access interchange from I-5 and a 200-seat restaurant. Several public hearings were held; hundreds of concerned people spoke against the plan and were happy to see it eventually abandoned.

The San Dieguito River Valley Joint Power Authority is the multi-city agency formed in 1989 by the San Diego Association of Governments to create an open-space greenway and an extensive trail system within the San Dieguito River Valley. There was great satisfaction in seeing the Bircher property become its first land purchase.

In 1991 the Coastal Commission required Southern California Edison to restore 150 acres of wetlands as mitigation for the impacts on the marine environment caused by the San Onofre nuclear power plant, and fortunately chose the San Dieguito Lagoon for the project.

Thirty years have elapsed since the Del Mar Lagoon Committee formulated its dreams of saving the lagoon. The persistence and hard work of many organizations have produced the exciting progress we see today in saving the San Dieguito wetlands, see page 7.

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

Save the Date

Sunday, April 27 is San Dieguito Lagoon Day!

The City of Del Mar Lagoon Committee will host a celebration in the Powerhouse Community Center beginning at 6:30pm. with environmentalists and scientists available to answer questions and refreshments available. More details in our April issue.

There is no charge for the event and the public is welcome.

Winter at the Beach

By Jon Edelbrock

Some people assert that southern California doesn't have real seasons. But in Del Mar, two seasons are distinct: Crowd-filled summers is one; the rest of the year is the other.

From my perspective as a Lifeguard, it seems as if a light switch is turned off the day after Labor Day each year. After a long summer of warm sun, long hours, and increased staffing, those of us who work year-round in the Community Services Department often take a deep breath; welcoming the off-season with a smile and eagerness to change gears and enjoy the community we work with.

With the decline in beach and community visitors, our staffing numbers dwindle accordingly; as tourists, students, and fair-weather beachgoers return home. Our Lifeguard staff numbers drop from twenty employees on any given day down to three to six guards per day.

The shift in seasons also prompts us year-round Lifeguards to reflect on the department and set goals to enhance our service to the community and regionally. Off-season maintenance tasks; refining of training materials, facility and equipment maintenance, augment our usual tasks of maintaining a safe and accessible beach.

Most notable among our tasks was our need to supplement and improve beach-safety materials available for our off-site school visits as well as group visits to the beach. We recently completed a beach-education video and installed a monitor downstairs at our Lifeguard

Headquarters. The video has turned out to be a great success, and we are in production on two more videos. Additionally, we believe this type of public education could expand further to other Lifeguard towers, thereby efficiently serving a need of basic safety education.

Education, training, and mutual-aid refinement, have all been a strong part of our beach off-season. Our core team members have participated in multiple inter-department trainings and mutual aids with neighboring Lifeguard and Fire agencies, including an upcoming River Rescue course and Cliff Rescue training on the bluffs at North Beach. We usually try to keep the trainings fun, yet serious. Deputy Lifeguard Chief Mark Rathsam and I recently made the most of our Cliff Rescue training by roping up the side of our Lifeguard tower to clean the windows, in addition to refining our skills.

The Lifeguards hope you're enjoying these winter months as we are. As always, please let us know if you have any great ideas of how we can enhance our services and better serve the community. Until then, we hope to see you enjoying the beautiful beach in Del Mar.

Jon Edelbrock reports from his job at Lifeguard Headquarters.



Landmark Event at the Lagoon

By Jacqueline Winterer

On January 23 we watched intently as a large back-hoe scooped away a narrow dam holding the waters of the 45-acre tidal basin dug out by Marathon Construction crews hired by Southern California Edison (SCE), thereby opening an extensive new area of the lagoon to the ebb and flow of beneficial tidal waters. This landmark event heralded major progress in the San Dieguito River Valley Joint Powers Authority/ SCE efforts to restore severely degraded wetlands.



Are You Safe from Wildfire Disaster?

Starting in our next issue, we will begin a series on living with the wildfire threat in our community. This series will include useful information that will enable readers to reduce the risk of fire in their homes and neighborhoods, while protecting our gorgeous natural environment.

Meanwhile, be part of the solution. To voice your opinion, watch for the issue to be discussed at an upcoming City Council meeting, see www.delmar.ca.us for date.

Pick up a copy of "Is Your Home Protected From Wildfire Disaster?" at City Hall or check out this web site www.ibhs.org for more particulars.

Next Workshop:

Wednesday, March 12, 2008
Del Mar City Hall Annex, 1-5pm.

Ceanothus: A Love Letter to a Native

By Mary Friestadt

Some people call this exquisite plant “California Lilac.” But I love the sound of the word Ceanothus – see uh NO thus. And the thrill I feel when looking at one in bloom is indescribable. My Ceanothus ‘Ray Hartman’ has already been in bloom for a couple months, but many more of the genus are about to burst into clouds of blue, indigo, and white this month. Ceanothus, mostly native to California, thrive in Del Mar. They are fairly fire resistant, drought tolerant evergreen shrubs and ground covers that have a long bloom season.

But let’s talk more about why I love you.

Ceanothus ‘Ray Hartman,’ I put you in the ground (with no added soil amendments) eight years ago and watered you once a week for just a year. Now I give you no irrigation or fertilizer and yet year after year you bloom twice a year for me with medium blue clusters of tear-inducing beauty. You are about 15 feet tall and wide, so you give me privacy and joy all year long with your shiny dark green leaves. I love how quickly you grew to your mature size.

Ceanothus ‘Carmel Creeper,’ I put you on my steep hillside eight years ago and watched you latch into the ground, asking for nothing but a little water once a week. Now my bank on Seaview is erosion proof and covered with a wave of dark green with pale blue

flowers off and on throughout the year. You can grow to 20 feet tall by 15 feet wide.

Ceanothus ‘Concha,’ you are a 6 by 6 foot beauty with one-inch clusters of cobalt blue flowers and are a favorite of many gardeners.

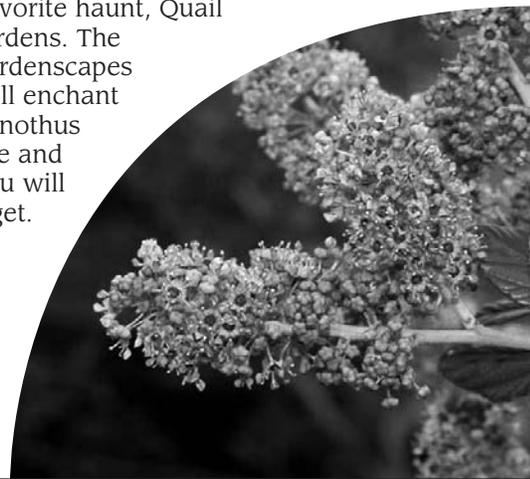
Ceanothus ‘Dark Star,’ you are as tall as ‘Concha,’ but can grow to 10 feet wide. Your flowers are also cobalt blue, but your leaves are tiny-- just 1/2 inch long.

Ceanothus ‘Skylark,’ you can be 3-6 feet tall and 5 feet wide with glossy medium green leaves. Your beautiful cerulean blue flower clusters bloom profusely a bit later than other species.

If you want to see many Ceanothus in bloom this month, take a drive east along Gopher Canyon Road, where you can see them growing in their native habitat, or visit my favorite haunt, Quail

Botanical Gardens. The California Gardenscapes area there will enchant you with Ceanothus clouds of blue and white that you will not soon forget.

*Mary Friestadt
is a resident
of
Del Mar.*



Anna Magdalena Charms the Crowd

By Lynn Gaylord

At it was a night of all Johann Sebastian Bach at First Thursdays as the Bach Collegium San Diego performed selections from the Anna Magdalena Notebook (1722 and 1725) at the Powerhouse. Music Leader Ruben Valenzuela charmed the audience with his artistically decorated harpsichord, while Shannon Zusman introduced listeners to the melodic sounds of the viola

da gamba. Anne Rardin played violin and revealed interesting insights into its design. Soprano Anne-Marie Dicce delighted listeners with several arias, and all too soon, the concert ended.

First Thursdays is a subscription series of the Del Mar Foundation's Cultural Arts Committee. For more information, log onto www.DelMarFoundation.org or call (858) 635-1363.



City Finance Department Reorganizes

By Bud Emerson

Del Mar’s new City Manager, Karen Brust, has restructured the City’s Finance Department by eliminating the position of Finance Director and downgrading another accounting position. The unit will now be headed by an “Accounting Manager/City Treasurer”. This new position will require a CPA credential and report to the Assistant City Manager. The City Council has approved the change by unanimous consent.

This new accounting orientation to the job is intended to complement Brust’s previous experience as a financial management executive. The financial impact is projected to be about \$30,000 in savings.

Bud Emerson is a resident of Del Mar.

March Community Calendar

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

Children's Dr. Seuss Craft: Sunday, March 2, noon to 1pm on the 2nd floor Balcony of the Powerhouse Community Center. The "Cat in the Hat" theme honors Dr. Seuss' birthday. The Children's Concert will follow at 1pm with Bucket Ruckus. Free. RSVP to Children@DelMarFoundation.org.

Children's Music Concert: Sunday, March 2, 1pm (immediately following the Children's Craft) at the Powerhouse Community Center. Come enjoy the music of Bucket Ruckus.

City Council Meetings: Monday, March 3 and March 17, 6pm, Del Mar TV Station.

First Thursday: March 6, at the Powerhouse Community Center: the Cultural Arts Committee of the Del Mar Foundation presents Dirk Sutro, Author: San Diego Architecture. Wine social at 6:30pm, performance at 7pm. (sold out—attendance by subscription only).

Teen Advisory Group: Friday, March 7, 3:30pm. Del Mar Library. Meet with other teens to discuss and plan library activities. Refreshments will be provided.

DMCC Monthly Board Meeting: Saturday, March 8, 9am, City Hall Annex. The meeting is open to the public.

Del Mar TV Foundation Board Meeting: Monday, March 10, 4pm, DMTV Foundation Studios. Monthly meeting is to review/approve grants and business.

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

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

Cultural Arts Committee: Wednesday, March 12, 8:30am, Powerhouse Community Center. The public is welcome to attend.

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

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

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

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

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

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

DMTV Foundation Producer's Meeting: Wednesday, March 19, 6:30pm, Del Mar TV Studio. The monthly meeting and networking is open to anyone interested in developing a program at DMTV.

Easter Egg Hunt: Saturday, March 22, 11am, Seagrove Park. Please make reservations by March 10 by going to: children@delmarfoundation.org. Bring your camera.

Children's Committee: Wednesday, March 26, 9am, Powerhouse Community Center Balcony. Join us monthly to plan and support children's events and activities in Del Mar.

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

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

Rose Society Monthly Meeting: Thursday, March 27, 6:30pm-8:30pm, Powerhouse Community Center.

Michael Vickers 1922 — 2008

By Claire & Tom McGreal



We first met Michael Vickers about ten years ago, when he had his corgi, Magic. We also had two corgis at the time, and we immediately bonded with Michael. Beyond the corgi connection, Michael was from Marblehead MA; we, too, hail from Massachusetts, and lived for some years in neighboring Salem. We would often reminisce

with Michael about life on the North Shore.

Whenever we saw Michael, we were greeted first by his effusive smile, and then by a hearty handshake for Tom, and a big hug for me, and he never failed to ask for our dogs by name.

Michael loved music and enjoyed attending the First Thursday programs at the Powerhouse. Several years

ago, Michael joined our table for an evening at the Symphony Pops to see Burt Bacharach. He thoroughly enjoyed the program as measured by his oversized smile and thunderous applause. In March 2007, Michael attended a First Thursday program featuring chanteuse Talia Ferro. Miss Ferro singled Michael out of the crowd, sang him a song, and gave him a big hug. After that, Michael's smile remained firmly fixed all evening.

Michael had so many friends in Del Mar. We will all sorely miss him.

The McGreals are residents of Del Mar.

Sandpiper Website Launches

The Sandpiper is pleased to announce its new website:

www.delmarsandpiper.org

You'll find current and past articles and more, plus a signup box for our email list. We'll be adding to the archives over time, as well as news and alerts that arise between print issues, so check it regularly! Thanks to Virginia Lawrence, our webmaster, for volunteering an incredible amount of time and talent to this project.

Cathy's Perspective

By Catherine D

For those of you who have a teenager, it is probably easy to relate to the stress that my mom endures during our driving lessons. At times, her anxiety has forced her to "use" an imaginary brake on the passenger side of the car. Every time I drive, she finds minor errors to point out, even though she makes them herself. She says that she is just getting me ready for the driving test.

Personally, I think that the whole driving thing has pushed her over the edge. But, by the time this article is published, I should have taken and passed my test. No longer will I have to have Mom in



the car. I admit that learning to drive has been difficult. Driving looks easy, but it is one thing to read about it and another to do it. I want to be a careful and polite driver. After five months of driving, I am not sure that everyone else has the same goal. I have noticed that five or six cars are on my bumper on Crest just because I am driving the speed limit -- which is, by the way, 15 miles per hour.

Many times adult drivers have passed and cut me off on that narrow road. Maybe that seems safe to them, but for an inexperienced teenage driver, it is scary. I find it strange that some of the worst offenders are moms driving with their kids in the car. It is ironic that I am more comfortable driving with all of my classmates in Carmel Valley than with the experienced drivers in Del Mar. So, if it wouldn't be too much to ask: Relax, be a good role model, and start out early so that you can be a careful and polite driver and I will do the same.

Embracing the Global Village

By Susan Miller

"We want our children to embrace the world," responded Principal Wendy Wardlow of Del Mar Heights School when asked about the driving force behind the Global Village concept she developed for the school in 2001. "We've shown we have stellar academic programs, but through development of the Global Village concept, we said, 'Let's go broader.' Part of that is acknowledging and respecting the importance of other cultures."

After years of research and collaboration with parents and experts, visits to at least seven other private and public elementary schools offering language programs, and enough supporting data to fill an enormous binder, Del Mar Heights School will become the first elementary school in the Del Mar Union School District (DMUSD) to offer foreign-language instruction.

Beginning next fall, Spanish language instruction will be provided to Heights students in all grades by offering exposure to Spanish throughout the entire curriculum. In addition, two classes of students in each kindergarten and first grade, whose parents enroll them in the "Spanish Discovery" program, will have more in-depth exposure to Spanish. The goal for these students is to be orally fluent by the end of third grade.

Principal Wardlow and her Spanish Language Task Force of parents and local university language experts were convinced by research confirming the benefits of second-language learning during the early primary school years, including its contribution to higher levels of cognitive development, creativity and success. Beyond these benefits, Principal Wardlow also values a "more expansive

view of the world" brought on by studying other languages and cultures.

The Spanish program at Del Mar Heights School was formally approved at a recent DMUSD Board of Trustees meeting and has been met with great enthusiasm and excitement by many district families.

When asked what her biggest challenges were in getting the program off the ground, Principal Wardlow stated, "This has been a labor of love. What's challenging is waiting to start - there is so much enthusiasm for the program, but we had to do the research, build community support and do it right."



Parents of children in DMUSD who will be entering kindergarten or first grade in fall 2008 can learn more by attending a Spanish Parent Forum on March 11 at 8:15am, in the Del Mar Heights School's multi-purpose room. Students in the Spanish Discovery program may transfer to Del Mar Heights School from other schools in the district.

Susan Miller is a resident 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

Monday, March 10: Coffee and Conversations. The latest cons and scams with FBI Agent Lamont Siller. Learn about the latest cons & scams, and how to avoid them! 10:00am, Del Mar City Hall Annex. Call 792-7565 for more information or to reserve.

Monday, March 10: Free CPR/AED Class offered by the San Diego Medical Services Enterprise, developed by the American Heart Association. Learn the basics of CPR and how to use Automated External Defibrillators (AEDs). CPR cards, valid for two years, are issued to students who pass the entire class. Comfortable clothing is recommended. Noon-4pm at the Annex. Call to reserve: 792-7565.

Friday, March 21, 9am to 1pm & Friday, March 28, 11am to 3pm, at the Annex. AARP Safe Driving For Seniors Class; Judy Gordon is returning to teach this class. Fee: \$10 and payable at the first class. The maximum enrollment is 30. Attendees are encouraged to bring their lunch for both days. Most insurance companies offer a discount for completion of this course. Call DMCC for more information or to reserve 792-7565.

Every Wednesday, February 13 to April 9: Free AARP Tax-Aide Program. Free tax-return preparation service to all senior or low/middle income taxpayers. The tax-preparers are fully trained volunteers certified by the IRS. 1-4pm, at St. Peter's Episcopal Church. To reserve an appointment, and learn about the documentation and information that is needed, please call 759-4286.

DMCC Ongoing Events and Activities

Silver Age Yoga for Seniors: Fridays, 10-11am at St. Peter's Parish Hall. Free. With chairs or on the floor. Chairs provided; bring your own yoga mat for floor work. Teacher trained and certified by Silver Age Yoga.

Singing Together: Tuesday, March 25, 3:30-5 pm at 1010 Crest Rd. Park on Amphitheatre.

Knit and Stitch: Thursday, March 6, 3-4:30 pm (first Thursday of each month). At the Del Mar City Library. Bring your own project and share an idea. Call Regina Horner 755-1931 for details.

DMCC's Senior Legal Services: Friday, March 28, 9am-1pm (last Friday of each month). 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 and to confirm date.

Senior Fitness Classes: At the Powerhouse - Colleen Soto teacher. San Dieguito Adult School (760) 753-7073 ext. 3418 or www.sdadulted.com. Tues. & Thurs. 8am, 9am or 10am, low impact and chair support. \$15. Registration for Winter/Spring session on going; classes began 2/5/08.

Life Story Classes: With Mai Lon Gittelsohn, at St. Peter's Episcopal Church Library. Th. 9-11:30am, or Fri. 9:30am-12 noon. See info for SD Adult School above.

Bridge and Mah Jongg Games: Wednesdays at Powerhouse Community Center. Free. Mah Jongg players upstairs 10am-2pm; Bridge downstairs 11am-2pm. No partner necessary. Mah Jongg call June Strasberg 755-4680; Bridge call 792-7565.

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

Warm Water Aerobics Class for Del Mar Seniors: Monday, 12-1pm, 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. The arthritis warm water class has been cancelled.

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 (Solana Beach) and to Trader Joe's (Encinitas); on Thursdays to Vons on Mango and Ralphs shopping center in DM Highlands. Suggested donation for each trip: \$3. Call 792-7565, 24 hours in advance to arrange pick up. The DMCC bus always has a volunteer host to help shoppers with their shopping and taking their groceries into the house. New hosts are always needed - please volunteer: 792-7565.

Rides to medical appointments: DMCC volunteers, using their own cars, drive City of Del Mar residents to medical appointments. Call 792-7565 a week in advance to reserve a ride. To become a volunteer driver, call 792-7565.

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

Upcoming DMCC Events (Mark your calendars!)

Tuesday, April 1: A bus trip to the San Diego Natural History Museum for the exhibitions "A Day in Pompeii", and "Photography at the Poles". Admission, bus and box lunch cost \$30. 9:30am-1pm. Call DMCC for more information or to reserve 792-7565. Reservations are a must for this event.

Monday, April 14: Fall-prevention workshop, with Christina Smith from Aging & Independence. Learn how to prevent injuries from falls and accidents. 10am at St. Peter's Parish Hall, 334 14th Street, Del Mar. Call to reserve: 792-7565.

Famed Surf-Break Wipes Out Toll Road

By Betty Wheeler



A marathon session of the California Coastal Commission on February 6 before more than 2,300 people at the Del Mar Fairgrounds ended in a 2-8 vote rejecting a federal consistency certification necessary to construct a 16-mile toll road in south Orange and northern San Diego counties, through San Onofre State Beach.

With a strongly-worded staff report calling the project "fundamentally inconsistent with the spirit and letter of numerous resource protection policies of the Coastal Act," the Commission considered far-ranging issues, including habitat protection for endangered/threatened species, traffic congestion, national security, emergency evacuations, a controversial agreement prohibiting CalTrans from "competing" with the toll road, and impact on traditional cultural uses.

The potential impact on Trestles, a world-class surf-break, contributed to the huge turnout by Surfrider Foundation and Sierra Club members. The staff report provided a fascinating

primer on what causes Trestles' high-quality wave formation, and why surfing mitigation is an uncertain science.

Del Mar Deputy Mayor Crystal Crawford urged denial of the certification. The project would "in no uncertain terms destroy precious and dwindling coastal resources," she noted. "Our city knows firsthand how it is far easier to prevent environmental damage rather than to mitigate

damage once it has occurred."

By 9am, 1500 chairs and 800 bleacher seats in Wyland Hall were filled. An overflow crowd spilled outside where environmental organizations collected petition signatures and the Foothill Eastern Transportation Corridor Agency (TCA), which seeks to build the road, distributed a "Green Means Go!" brochure touting the project's environmental stewardship.

Most attendees were project opponents; about 400 were pro-road, mostly Orange County union members and local officials. The lively atmosphere included pro-road chants and boos, with both sides well-armed with colorful signs.

The verbal fireworks weren't limited to the audience. Commissioner Sara Wan responded to reports accusing Commission staff of "junk science" by pointing out TCA experts' statements she called "clearly designed to mislead," terming some "false science".

Commissioner Steve Blank called the TCA's offer to contribute \$100 million to the California Department of Parks and Recreation for the San Onofre and Crystal Cove State Beaches "the most embarrassing part of the proposal," asking, "Is there a price list for a state park?"

At 11:22pm, the vote was announced and the meeting ended with audience cheers. With certification denied, the project appears to be dead, absent successful court appeal or a federal exemption from the consistency requirement.

Betty Wheeler is a resident of Del Mar.

Save the Date Sandpiper Fundraiser

in the
Beautiful Del Mar
Garden and Home
of Candace Kohl

**Sunday,
April 13, 2008
3:00-5:00pm**

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