

SANDPIPER

A Vision for Village Revitalization

By Mark Whitehead

A community-serving retail district located south on Camino del Mar near 9th street, more continuity of lively store-fronts, streamlined development processes, and improving "perceptions" about parking were among the recommendations of Ms. Kennedy Smith whose long-awaited revitalization plan for Del Mar's business core was presented to the city council on March 17. The plan was commissioned by the Del Mar Village Association (DMVA) which shared its cost with the city. The plan is "not just another study," according to DMVA president Walt Beerle. Stating the city has lots of completed studies, Beerle explained that the prior studies were used by Ms. Smith together with new survey data to analyze the pros and cons of the business district, and to make suggestions for improvements that would be a good fit.



Desirable features of the village core, according to Ms. Smith, include its unique look, protected views, an engaged citizenry and community affluence. She also praised the marketing efforts of the DMVA in recent years. Negative features include unusually high "regulatory burdens" that discourage development, the City's inability to fund public improvements, and an underperforming retail sector. Ms. Smith explained that the retail businesses in the village core produce about \$260,000 in annual sales tax revenues for the City; about half of what could be expected. "In fact", said Ms. Smith, "city revenue from parking fines is greater than revenue from retail!"

The report analyzed voids in retail businesses that could be successful, given Del Mar's demographics. It recommended more resident-serving shops, including convenience products, and visitor destination shops offering unique gifts.

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Website Announcement

The Sandpiper website has this month's complete issue, plus color photos, a growing archive of past issues, upcoming events, and more! Check it out at www.delmarsandpiper.org. There you will find a sign-up box for our e-mail list; sign up for our e-newsletter, alerts, and other occasional e-mails of interest to Del Mar residents.

Also In This Issue:



Let's make this a thing of the past, see page 6.



Lagoon Day is April 27, see page 9.



"Available", but will it be "SOLD"? See page 4.

Investing in Our Future

Our generation's open space challenge is in a crunch time, but acquisition of the five-acre Shores school site for a community park is more than half way to its \$8.5 million goal. Donors to date total 186 and ten pledges, many of these from the Winston School community. Now the entire community needs to join in.

Consider some math to decide what level of giving is appropriate. If one's net worth, all your assets minus your debts, is \$1 million, a one-half percent contribution is

\$5,000; a net worth of \$5 million is a \$25,000 donation.

The open-space acquisitions of the past, Crest and Anderson Canyons, Seagrove and Powerhouse Parks, define our community and contribute to the values of our houses. The Shores site will surely have the same payoff.

There are over 2,000 households in Del Mar. If only 100 gave \$20,000 each, we will be halfway home; another 200 at \$10,000 each, we will hit the goal.

Consider how much we spend for cars, maybe as little as \$20-25 thousand for a 3-5 year investment. The Shores park is a lifetime, generation-jumping investment. Consider the value of this gift to three and more generations of friends and relatives – it's way more than an automobile.

Dig deep. We can do it, Del Mar.

A "Shore" Thing – With Your Help

By Barbara Mandel-Pache

The Campaign for Del Mar Shores is working diligently to raise the \$8.5 million needed to purchase the Shores property, despite discord at the Del Mar Union School District. The resignations of both DMUSD superintendent Tom Bishop and trustee Linda Crawford have left many community members wondering how the shake-ups will affect the Campaign. And many in the community are anxious to hear about the progress of negotiations between the City Council and the District trustees regarding the requested extension of escrow for the Shores property.

Our City Council members have assured the Campaign they are confident that we will be able to complete the campaign, and that acquiring the property is a high priority of the Council. It is a community vision that we retain the Shores property for recreational and educational space, and when this community decides something is important, residents rally to reach the goal.



Campaign for Del Mar Shores co-chair Mike Peterson paints in the donation thermometer on Camino del Mar. \$4.8 million raised to date

So where are we in the progress of raising the \$8.5 million needed? \$4.8M is committed to date. So almost \$4 million is still needed. Because we have been waiting for the official news of an extension of escrow, it has been a bit more challenging to push ahead with the community-wide efforts of the campaign, but we are persevering.

We are getting the word out to folks in the community through The Sandpiper and other news media. We are talking to our friends and neighbors, and encourage all supporters to pass on the word. This campaign will take our entire village to succeed. If you can get involved in any level, we invite you to join us. Please call Joe Sullivan at 792-7733, Laura Stanley DeMarco at 692-5194, or Barbara Mandel Pache at 755-6434. Would you like to join the campaign committee? Host a coffee at your home for a small group of neighbors? Help with an event? And importantly, can you make a financial contribution to acquire the property?

For updates and information, or to make contributions, go to www.delmarparks.org, or mail contributions to the Campaign for Del Mar Shores, c/o The Winston School, 215 Ninth St., DM 92014.

Barbara Mandel Pache coordinates the Shores Campaign.

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. **Webmaster:** Virginia Lawrence.

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

City Opts for Virtual Revitalization

By Art Olson



In a surprise move at the April 1st City Council meeting, council members decided to opt for a revitalization plan suggested by a previously undisclosed “shadow” consultant. That consultant, Les S. Moore of Community Land Use by Les (CLU-LES) had been hired, during a closed session by the Council, to provide a reality check on the report proffered by Kennedy Smith of C.L.U.E. The Moore report acknowledges similar trends and problems facing Commercial Del Mar but proposes a totally different strategy to solve the Revitalization conundrum – “virtualization.”

The Council was swayed by a powerful demonstration of the technology given by Mr. Moore, who led them on a tour through a prototype of “Virtual Del Mar.” First he equipped each councilmember with a Wii computer game controller for navigation and had them each choose a virtual self, or “Avatar” to be their alter egos in the computer generated townscape projected in front of them. Apparently this was their first encounter with “Second Life,” the popular Internet-based virtual social environment.

After the 15-minute tour, the Council discussion was decidedly favorable toward the project. “It makes a lotta sense,” said Dave Druker “and it’s a lot cheaper than any other alternative.” Druker was struck by the fact that parking would no longer be a problem. “People don’t need cars to get around in Second Life – they moved from place to place like jumping from one web-site to another. Once in Virtual Del Mar, your avatar moves effortlessly around town. Incredible.”

“Les Moore had me at ‘no view blockage’,” remarked Crystal Crawford, who expressed amazement that a one-story house could have multilevel basements, all with ocean views. “I was taken with that cute craftsman cottage, that housed a 60-story office building. Floor Area Ratio has no meaning in Second Life,” she enthused.

“I couldn’t believe it,” said Henry Abarbanel. “Gliding along Camino del Mar, from cheese shop to bakery to hardware store to drug store! Truly resident-serving businesses. We’ll never have to leave Del Mar to get what we need – reducing our carbon footprint dramatically.”

“Yes, and visitors can get what they want, too,” exclaimed Richard Earnest. “The idea of having parallel Camino del Mars, one for tourists and one for residents is brilliant. Tee shirt stands, candle shops, ice cream parlors, outlet stores! I understand that even day spas are possible in Second Life. Of course, pushing the Del Mar Brand on the Internet will be critical to get revenue-generating visitors,” he opined.

“Best of all,” added Carl Hilliard, “once you’re in Virtual Del Mar, there’s free wi-fi – and the signal is great everywhere, without those ugly antennas!”

Questions were raised from the audience about the fate of real Del Mar. Les Moore did admit that once you turned off your computer, you would have to walk outside into the old un-revitalized Del Mar. That seemed to ease the minds of most of the citizens watching.

The Council approved the “Del Mar Virtual Revitalization Act” by unanimous vote, and budgeted \$10,000 toward the goal of getting it up and running by next April 1st.

Art Olson lives for real in Del Mar.

Village Revitalization

Continued from page 1

Increased reliance on internet marketing by retailers was also touted.

Ms. Smith recommended reducing regulatory burdens for new development by replacing existing zoning with a “Smart Code”; a form of regulation encouraging multiple goals and objectives, not simply limiting permitted uses. Redevelopment that would significantly increase retail revenue will “require increased density,” a “controversial topic,” she said, but one that merits consideration.

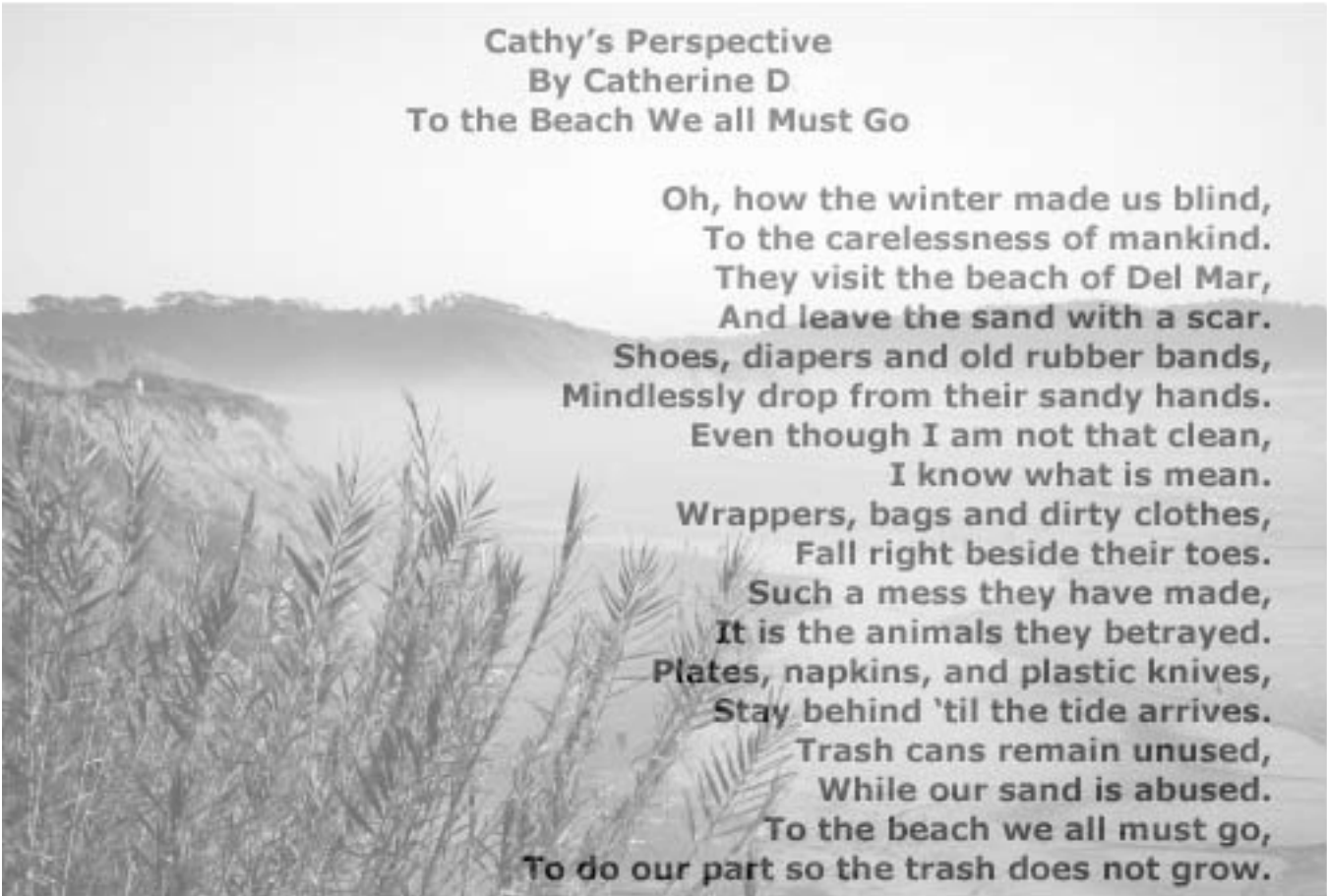
Ms. Smith recommended the City should assume responsibility for implementing the Streetscape Plan and adopt policies, such as the proposed horizontal-zoning ordinance, to encourage a continuous retail-oriented pedestrian zone along Camino del Mar.

Addressing parking adequacy, Ms. Smith concluded the greater problem is poor utilization of existing parking, not shortage of spaces. Tailoring parking regulations for each block, encouraging shared use of parking by day and evening businesses, and new technology to enhance parking meter uses were among her suggestions.

The day after her City Council presentation Ms. Smith met with the DMVA to offer suggestions for the next steps. “We are now studying implementation steps” said Jen Grove, executive director of the DMVA. She added that Streetscape has been identified as an important objective and DMVA is looking at ways to move this forward. “DMVA will also be considering ways to encourage better tenants for our village,” she stated. Recognizing that land-use issues may cause controversy, Grove expressed the hope that residents will remain “open-minded” in considering changes for improving the village core.

Mark Whitehead is a former mayor of Del Mar.

**Cathy's Perspective
By Catherine D
To the Beach We all Must Go**



**Oh, how the winter made us blind,
To the carelessness of mankind.
They visit the beach of Del Mar,
And leave the sand with a scar.
Shoes, diapers and old rubber bands,
Mindlessly drop from their sandy hands.
Even though I am not that clean,
I know what is mean.
Wrappers, bags and dirty clothes,
Fall right beside their toes.
Such a mess they have made,
It is the animals they betrayed.
Plates, napkins, and plastic knives,
Stay behind 'til the tide arrives.
Trash cans remain unused,
While our sand is abused.
To the beach we all must go,
To do our part so the trash does not grow.**

Will the "Gold Coast" Lose its Sheen?

By John Graybill

San Diego's housing market is in the correction phase of the real-estate cycle. At the end of 2007, the median sales price in San Diego of \$430,000 dropped 17% from its November 2005 peak of \$517,500. Sales volume was down 26%. Nationally, foreclosures are at a record high, and home equity is at a record low. There are lots of gloomy statistics.

However, that is not the case for Del Mar's housing market. At the end of 2007, the median sales price in the Del Mar area (92014) of \$1,442,000 dropped only 1.6% from the previous year. Solana Beach showed no change in median sales price. La Jolla dropped only 0.1%. Most sections of Carlsbad were up as were Encinitas and Cardiff.

Why don't the North Coastal areas follow suit with San Diego County? Pricing is one reason. Homes prices under \$500,000 fell the most. It's rare to find a habitable home in Del Mar for under \$500,000. According to First American Title Company's 2008 Real Estate Forecast, this area is different for the following reasons:

Biotech companies in the nearby Torrey Pines area are growing and still lure top researchers;

Nearby areas have low unemployment;

Only a few homes were lost to foreclosure in 2007 (11 in the Del Mar area);

The Carmel Valley area is becoming a new legal power hub; Vacation-home buyers don't mind short-term market fluctuations.

Realtors refer to the North Coastal area as San Diego's "Gold Coast." Del Mar has been insulated from much of the housing correction: Many property owners in Del Mar don't need to sell at any particular point in time; They generally have more financial reserves (staying power) than sellers in other areas -- for example, if a seller can't get his or her price, the property can be taken off the market until there are more buyers to bid up the price. Therefore, fewer sales occur during a down market when lower prices would otherwise be recorded.

So the \$1,442,000 question is whether this trend will continue. Experts differ. The median price of a home in San Diego rose 210% from 2000 to 2005. A 15-35% drop in price isn't too bad when you've enjoyed a ride of 210% in such a short period. Some economists believe this is a normal breather for an overly robust market. One of San Diego's respected real-estate consultants, Sanford Goodkin, stated that San Diego is capable of shedding another 15%. All bets are off the table if there are multiple bank failures and the economy falls into a long, deep recession. In that case, even the Gold Coast will feel the correction. Most experts believe the housing market will hit bottom in one to three years.

John Graybill is a resident of Del Mar.

Jerry Finnell Remembered

By Penny Abell

Three hundred people celebrated the life of Jerry Finnell at the Del Mar Powerhouse on a beautiful afternoon, Wednesday, March 19.

The public program, planned by his wife Kathy, featured pitch-perfect remembrances of Jerry. The themes of Jerry's kindness, strength, vision, pragmatism, humor and integrity recurred throughout the program. Ron Safran, former KPMG colleague, traveled from Connecticut to speak of Jerry as teacher and friend. City Councilman Richard Earnest and DMCC President Shirley King spoke about Jerry's contributions to the community and his friendship. Pastor Martha Greene praised the qualities of Jerry's selflessness and leadership. Highlighting the program was Donald Finnell's tribute to his father, reminiscent of Jerry's humor and kind direct style.

The Powerhouse and patio were decorated with picture



posters of Jerry and cheerful spring flowers and tablecloths. The community outdid itself with a potluck feast and plentiful wine. Jerry, sporting one of his checked or Hawaiian shirts, was ubiquitous at the party.

Penny Abell is a resident of Del Mar.

Conversations with Ourselves

By Henry Abarbanel

On Sunday March 9 George and Barbara Pache generously opened their home on Balboa to two dozen neighbors for the first of a series of "Community Conversations" with members of our City Council, our City Manager, and senior City staff. Through these gatherings the Council is seeking neighborhood input about the various challenges facing Del Mar and all California cities such as the effects of the State budget deficits. The Council decided to use a very successful method that we used in the past and is being implemented in Vista of going out to people's homes and asking them what is on their minds.

The number one concern of the March 9th group was how to collect some form of user fee from out-of-town visitors to our beach for the rather high costs we incur for maintaining them. There are about 2,000,000 visitors to the beach annually. Because of the Coastal Act passed in 1972, there is precious little we can do to collect any money from these visitors, but two ideas emerged: institute a permit parking plan and/or additional pay-and-display machines beyond those North of the San Dieguito bridge and bring retail shops for food and drink to the beachfront to sell items to these visitors and collect sales tax. The former can be done by the City, with the permission of the Coastal Commission, while the latter can be stimulated by the City but undertaken by private enterprise.

Our Community Services staff (the lifeguards) have done many studies, and the Coastal Commission has made it clear that residents as well as visitors must pay, not just visitors. Our citizen Finance Committee will be

considering this in the near future, and will make a proposal to the Council soon. It seemed unfair to the participating neighbors at the Paches that we would have to pay, but other coastal cities, such as Laguna Beach, have faced this fact and successfully implemented a permit program that works for all.

The other big issue on people's minds was the cost for implementing the State imposed rules about clean water. Even though people agreed with the goals of the Federal Clean Water Act, next year's fees of \$500,000 stimulated serious conversation about this unfunded mandate, and whether we should pay for it. We see no way to escape paying for it---via our taxes or via fees on our water and sewer bills. The first charges you by the size of your property while the latter charges you by the amount of water you use.

Not surprisingly, people at this gathering prefer their information delivered from the City by e-mail. Since any information given to a municipal government is public, Del Mar has contracted with a third party to hold safe and private all e-mail and other personal information so that residents can benefit from this method of delivering information and not lose their privacy. If you'd like to participate in this, send the information to the City Manager and she will pass it along to our safe provider.

What's on your mind about Del Mar? How would you suggest to your Council and City staff to approach the issues coming this year and next year and the years after that? There will be a conversation about all this in your neighborhood soon. Please look for announcements through door hangers in your neighborhood, e-mail notices when possible, and word of mouth among your neighbors. And thanks to the Paches for our inaugural meeting.

Henry Abarbanel is a member of the City Council.

Tackling the "Fire Triangle"

By Dismas Abelman

The City of Del Mar, in cooperation with the San Diego Museum of Natural History conducted the seminar "Living with Wildfire". This seminar held on March 12 at the City Hall Annex was in response to a heightened awareness by community members since the most recent wildfires in October of 2007. Members of the Natural History Museum and the Del Mar Fire Department presented together a broad range of expertise on the subject of fire and the Southern California environment. Here are the highlights about the dangers of wildfires.

Fire is the rapid oxidation of a fuel resulting in heat and light production. In order to have a fire, three materials are needed: a source of ignition, fuel and oxygen. This combination of materials is called the fire triangle. The fire triangle is critically important to southern California residents because oftentimes our homes or the vegetation near us is the fuel in the triangle. The goal is to minimize the fuel in the event of a wildfire, or place it in a configuration that is less likely to burn. Knowing this, it is then essential to understand the development of the basics of fire behavior. Given a set of circumstances, fire will burn in a predictable manner. The object of fire prevention is to develop a set a circumstances that are less likely to lead to fire, and if a fire occurs, to minimize the potential for damage. This could result in fewer lives lost and less property destroyed in a large wildfire.

Many people are aware that most large fires occur when the Santa Ana winds impact Southern California. Weather is only one factor that dictates the intensity with which a fire will burn. Weather, fuel and topography are the main factors that will cause a fire to burn with tremendous heat at a rapid rate of speed or slowly with little heat or intensity. The Santa Ana winds have a drying effect on the fuels, assisting vegetation in getting started easily and allowing fire to spread rapidly. The winds have the added detrimental effects of fanning flames and making a fire line more difficult to contain and carrying embers to other places where fuel exists.

Another weather impact can be prolonged drought, which causes the drying of fuels in the area. That is, the fuels actually have less moisture contained in the branches and leaves, which allow for easier fire starts and rapid fire spread. It can also stress and kill the plants of an area increasing the amount of fuel to burn. Once the fuel has died, no amount of rain will bring it back to life, so a good rainy season or a couple of good rainy seasons will only increase the moisture levels on live plants and not provide any help to the dead fuels. Once the weather starts to dry out, the fire danger will return.

The topography will affect the way a fire burns once it gets started. It is important to remember that a house or



a road built at the top or halfway up a hill will have to withstand a fire burning with greater intensity than a fire under the same conditions on flat ground. If a house is at the top of a hill on top of a draw (usually the best location for a view) the house will be exposed to a furnace if the fire gets into the draw. A draw is a canyon that runs from the bottom of the hill to the top, which allows both sides of the canyon to heat and move up the draw, FAST.

Fuel is the final portion of the equation. Depending on where you live in San Diego County, you can have almost any type of fuel. On the coast we see a lot of scrub and chaparral. Although this type of fuel doesn't look like it poses much danger, it is important to remember that this fuel, under the right conditions, will start easily and spread quickly. Since fuel is the only factor we have the ability modify, it is important to take the steps available to reduce the likelihood of loss of life and property when a fire does occur.

The City of Del Mar is exploring the possibility of presenting the "Living with Wildfire" class again in the future. The scheduling will depend on the level of interest and schedule for interested participants. If you are interested in attending, please contact the fire department at 755-1522.

Dismas Abelman is Deputy Fire Chief and Fire Marshal for City of Del Mar and Solana Beach.

Watch for Announcements in April

Riverview Project: Final EIR & comments.
Gardenview Project: Specific Plan presentation.
Go to www.delmar.ca.us

Ann – Our “Mother of Exiles”

By Sherryl Parks

Long-time resident Ann Dempsey has been teaching English as a Second Language for over 16 years. Ann became interested in teaching when her daughter, Joanna taught English in Cambodia. Ann trained at UCSD Extension which prepared her to meet the wide variety of immigrants coming into San Diego County. Her students are between 18 and 80 years of age, representing Korea, Japan, Thailand, Russia, Iran, France, Colombia, Ecuador, Taiwan, Mexico and China. Many of her Chinese students have arrived here to take care of their grandchildren while the parents work. A great number of her students are retired doctors, university professors or successful business people.

Ann’s enthusiasm for her teaching is obvious. She engages students in practical areas of life including ordering out at a restaurant, using 911 to make emergency calls, and negotiating change at the grocery store. The level of understanding English ranges from beginning to advanced. She has learned much from her students over the years. For example, she has learned to always accept a person from Asia with two hands – not one. And one always offers something with two hands. She also reports that the word that everyone knows best is “pizza” and of course that isn’t really English. She has learned about the most pressing concerns of immigrants in the county – public transportation. There is a bus only once an hour in Solana Beach and

nothing at all in Carmel Valley. If you don’t have a car, which most of them don’t, you resort to traveling by foot. One of her students – in her seventies – walks to class one hour each way!

Ann teaches classes at the Solana Beach library two days a week and Carmel Valley library one day a week. Her most popular class is for those becoming US citizens, at Solana Beach on Wednesday evenings. There is no cost to attend the classes, but students should buy a workbook that costs \$23.

Catalogs of classes are offered through the San Dieguito Adult School and are available at the local libraries, but Ann will be happy to answer any specific questions (755-7563). If you leave your name and number, please speak slowly.

Sherryl Parks is a resident of Del Mar.



Bled By the State

By Kenya Warren

Once again, the State of California is proposing to balance their budget by imposing cuts on city revenues. The City of Del Mar will lose \$179,268 in public-safety funding if the State’s proposed alternative budget is adopted.

Governor Schwarzenegger declared a fiscal emergency in January 2008 with a \$14.5 billion deficit. This required the Legislature to address the fiscal crisis resulting in mid-year budget cut bills that reduced the shortfall by approximately \$7.5 billion. Despite those budget cuts, the Legislative Analyst’s Office (LAO) announced that the state budget deficit is closer to \$16 billion instead of \$14.5 billion as originally projected by the Governor. The LAO took an unusual further step by offering an alternative proposed state budget, which included several elements that would directly impact public safety in California cities.

The City of Del Mar will lose \$69,663 from its sales-tax revenues because of the reallocation of all Proposition 172 funding to new special county Public Safety Realignment Accounts. Prop 172 monies come from the 1/2 cent state sales tax that was approved in 1993 by California voters and

was intended to mitigate the impact of property-tax shifts on local public-safety operations.

Del Mar will lose another \$100,000 by the elimination of the Citizens Option for Public Safety (COPS) program. The COPS program provides, among other things, an annual subvention of state funds for supplemental local law enforcement (SLESF) allocated to cities, counties and five police special districts on a per capita basis with \$100,000 minimum grant per agency. These monies are used, together with funding from the City of Del Mar’s General Fund, to achieve additional enforcement related to beach activities. This funding provides a Park Ranger who also issues parking citations and enforces all municipal-code violations at the beach.

By the elimination of the Local Detention Facility Subventions, the City of Del Mar loses \$9,605. The deletion of this funding would result in the return of county booking fees charged to cities and others. So, not only will the city be receiving fewer resources, the LAO proposal will assure that the remaining resources are drawn down by the city being required to pay booking fees to counties.

In total, the LAO proposed alternative budget will reduce revenues for public safety in the City of Del Mar by a total of \$179,268.

Kenya Warren is Interim Assistant City Manager.

Confidence Breeds Success

Interview with Janet Bernard, DMUSD Interim Superintendent

By Susan Miller



As has been widely reported in local news, Del Mar Union School District (DMUSD) Superintendent Tom Bishop recently resigned, leaving his position on February 29. Soon after Mr. Bishop's resignation, the DMUSD Board of Trustees appointed Janet Bernard as Interim Superintendent. The Board expects to identify a

permanent superintendent within several months, allowing a transition over the summer.

Upon naming Mrs. Bernard in this role, DMUSD Board President Annette Easton stated, "Mrs. Bernard's breadth of experience across a variety of administrative positions will allow her to move seamlessly into this role... Mrs. Bernard's leadership style centers on trust, team building, and empowering others."

To give Sandpiper readers an opportunity to get to know Janet Bernard, we conducted the following email interview with Mrs. Bernard:

Please tell Sandpiper readers about yourself and your background in education.

I am a native to San Diego and completed my B.A. and Masters Degrees in Education Leadership, and Administrative Service Credential at San Diego State University. My undergraduate major was Social Sciences with a minor in Music. I play the cello.

I started my teaching career with the Carlsbad Unified School District as a music teacher and taught in the District for ten years from K through middle school. I served as a principal in the South Bay Union School District in Imperial Beach and the San Marcos Unified School District in San Marcos. I also held central office positions in operations, learning-support services and program/staff development.

I've served the Del Mar Union School District for the past nine years in the position of Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum and Instruction. Some of my major responsibilities have included the coordination of: strategic planning, curriculum adoptions, services for English language learners, GATE, beginning teacher induction program, new teacher orientation, articulation efforts with the San Dieguito High School District, local and state assessment programs, and special curriculum projects.

As personal background, I've been married to my husband Walter, a retired engineer for KFMB TV, for 33 years. We have six children, all grown except for the youngest who is a senior at Rancho Bernardo High School.

What are your goals for the remainder of this school year, during the term of your role as Interim Superintendent?

- Help build bridges between a divided staff and a divided community;
- Re-focus on our mission of meeting the individual learning needs of every student;
- Maintain our diligent work on the implementation of the professional learning communities model;
- Hire a new Director of Technology and Coordinator of State and Federal Projects to strengthen support and services for our staff, students, and parents;
- Begin the work of our strategic planning action teams in health, wellness, and physical education, and securing funding for the enrichment program;
- Recommend a new K-6 science program for Board adoption;
- Evaluate all aspects of the district operation to assist the permanent superintendent with setting priorities for the '08-'09 school year.

What do you find to be the most challenging part of your job?

The most challenging part of my job is not having enough time to complete all the tasks I have prioritized to be accomplished in a day. There just aren't enough hours.

What are your hopes for the future of DMUSD?

My hope for the future of the Del Mar Union School District is that we will maintain our continuous journey for program improvement and will do our best to reach the NCLB goal of every DMUSD student being proficient in the 2013-14 school year.

What do you find to be the most gratifying part of your job?

The most gratifying part of my job is observing students being confident and successful with learning – be it in the classroom, a musical performance, or a special project. I firmly believe that confidence breeds success and is the conduit for student well-being.

I am also gratified to observe teachers growing as leaders with their knowledge, expertise, and skills. I have mentored many teachers over the years who have gone on to become grade-level leaders, principals and district leaders. I am so proud of those individuals! As a teacher at heart, it just doesn't get any better than that.

Susan Miller is a resident of Del Mar.

Mark These Dates

Fairgrounds Master Plan
April 2: Ad Hoc Advisory Committee
City Hall Annex, 4pm.

April 16: Scoping Meeting for
Notice of Preparation of EIR
Fairgrounds Mission Tower, 1pm.

April Community Calendar

First Thursday: April 3, 6:30pm, snacks; 7 pm, program. Powerhouse Community Center. Rosina Reynolds: Eleanor, a One-Woman Show. Attendance by subscription only.

Teen Advisory Group: Friday, April 4, Del Mar Library, 3:30pm. Meet with other teens over refreshments to discuss and plan fun activities.

Del Mar Art Gallery Art Sale: Saturday, April 5, L'Auberge Amphitheatre, 11am-6pm. Enjoy an art stroll among paintings, sculptures, ceramics, etchings, artistic jewelry and other art works by local artists.

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

Children's Crafts Hour: Sunday, April 6, noon (right before the Children's Music Concert Series), Powerhouse Community Center. Children will make kites to celebrate Spring and honor Ben Franklin. All materials will be provided. Everyone welcome!

Children's Music Concert Series: Sunday, April 6, 1pm, Powerhouse Community Center. Hullabaloo will entertain with upbeat tunes to enchant kids of all ages.

City Council Meetings: Monday, April 7 and April 21, 6:00pm, DMTV Station.

Del Mar Planning Commission: Tuesday, April 8, 6pm, Del Mar TV Station.

Preschool Spanish/English Bilingual Storytime: Tuesday, April 8, 10:30am, Del Mar Library.

Cultural Arts Committee of DMVA: Wednesday, April 9, 8:30am, Powerhouse Community Center. All interested parties are welcome. Volunteers welcome!

Promotion/Events Committee of DMVA: Wednesday, April 9, 9am, Del Mar TV Studio.

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

Producer's Showcase: Thursday, April 10, 5pm, DMTV Studios. The purpose is to hone producers' skills and produce a program of interest to Del Mar viewers.

DMVA Design Committee: Friday, April 11, 9am, City Hall Annex.

DMCC Monthly Board Meeting: Saturday, April 12, City Hall Annex. The meeting is open to the public.

Sandpiper Garden Party Fundraiser: Sunday, April 13, 3pm at the home of Candace Kohl. Experience the beauty of the location, chat with neighbors, listen to jazz and enjoy refreshments as we honor June Strasberg for her contributions to the neighborhood and community over many decades. Casual attire, flat shoes and sweater or wrap are recommended. Suggested donation is \$50 per person.

Del Mar TV Foundation Board Meeting: Monday, April 14, 4pm, DMTV Studio. Monthly meeting to review/approve grants and other business.

Del Mar Historical Society Monthly Meeting: Tuesday, April 15, 4pm, Del Mar City Hall Annex. Volunteers are welcome.

DMVA Promotion/Marketing Committee: Tuesday, April 15, 6pm, Folio Design, Del Mar Plaza.

Friends of the Powerhouse Board Meeting: Wednesday, April 16, 9am, Jakes. The monthly meeting is open to the public.

Del Mar Television Foundation Producer's Meeting: Wednesday, April 16, 6:30pm, DMTV Studio. This is the monthly meeting for those interested in participating in the productions at DMTV and a networking meeting for others, e.g. crew.

DMVA Economic Restructuring Committee: Thursday, April 17, 9am, Trophy Suite, L'Auberge Resort & Spa.

Del Mar Arts Center Board Meeting: Monday, April 21, 6:30pm, Del Mar TV Studio.

Design Review Board: Wednesday, April 23, 6pm, Del Mar TV Studio.

DMVA Annual Meeting/Retreat: Thursday, April 24, 2-5pm, Powerhouse Community Center; reception at 6pm.

Rose Society Monthly Meeting: Thursday, April 24, 6:30-8:30pm, Powerhouse Community Center.

Keep Del Mar Clean & Creek to Bay Cleanup with I Love a Clean San Diego: Saturday, April 26, meet at Powerhouse Park, 9am. Everyone is welcome!

San Dieguito Lagoon Day: Sunday, April 27, Powerhouse Community Center. See below.

Children's Committee Meeting: Wednesday, April 30, 9-10am, Powerhouse Community Center Balcony. Join us to help plan and support children's events and activities in Del Mar.

A New Perspective on the Lagoon

By Liz Dernetz

If asked to describe the San Dieguito Lagoon, some people would say it's at the mouth of the San Dieguito River, whose headwaters flow from the Pacific Crest at over 5,000 feet above sea level all the way to the Pacific Ocean. Some see it as the river bordering Dog Beach, while others see it as a major project to restore a tidal basin and wetland habitat. Another perspective of the lagoon will be presented at this year's Lagoon Day 2008 celebration. The event features Dr. Exequiel Ezcurra, provost of the San Diego Natural History Museum and director of the museum's scientific research division, who will speak on the topic, From the Tide Pools to the Stars: How the San Dieguito Lagoon Fits into the Larger Ecosystem.

Dr. Ezcurra, whose division is known as the Biodiversity Research Center of the Californias, is currently

spearheading an initiative uniquely focused on understanding and managing the Sea of Cortés as one whole ecosystem, including the people who live there. Inspired in part by John Steinbeck's famous "Log from the Sea of Cortez" – in which Steinbeck wondered at the delicate balance between the sea and the many creatures living there – Dr. Ezcurra will address how the restoration of our lagoon will re-establish its role in the larger coastal and ocean ecosystem. This role becomes even more important at a time when so many natural beauties of the California coast are being degraded or lost.

The San Dieguito Lagoon Day event will be held on Sunday, April 27 in the Powerhouse Community Center beginning at 6:30pm, with exhibits, Q & A with environmentalists and other experts, and a display of art created by local third grade students after being inspired by lagoon field trips. The lecture will begin at 7pm. The public is welcome and there is no charge for the event. Light refreshments will be available.

Liz Dernetz 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

Call 858-792-7565 for more information or to reserve

Monday, April 14: DMCC Coffee and Conversations: Fall Prevention Workshop. Christina Smith from Aging & Independence Services will show us how to avoid falls and the injuries that occur with those accidents. Refreshments provided. 10am at St. Peter's Parish Hall, 334 14th Street, Del Mar.

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". 9:30am to 1pm. Admission, bus, and box lunch cost \$30. Call DMCC for more information or to reserve 792-7565. Reservations are a must for this event!

Wednesdays, April 2 & 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, April 22, 3:30-5pm at 1010 Crest Rd. Park on Amphitheatre.

Knit and Stitch: Thursday, April 3, 3-4:30pm (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, April 25, 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 ongoing.

Life Story Classes: With Mai Lon Gittelsohn at St. Peter's Episcopal Church Library. Thurs. 9-11:30am or Fri. 9:30am-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-2 pm. 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: Mondays, noon-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 Von's on Mango and Ralph's 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!)

Monday, May 12: Readings from our lives – the Adult Education Life Story Writing Class will share their stories, poems, and writings. 10am at Del Mar Communications Center, 240 10th Street, Del Mar. Call to reserve: 792-7565.

Tuesday, June 10: Annual Salad Potluck Luncheon, 11:30am at St. Peter's Parish Hall. Come see your neighbors model 'Summer Fashions for Del Mar Living'. North County Humane Society will bring some special senior dogs ready to be a permanent companion. Call 792-7565 to reserve.

Country Event. Thursday, June 26: Aging Summit 2008 – Focus: Lifelong Learning, 9am-3pm at Town and Country Resort, Convention Center and California Center for the Arts, Escondido. Keeping yourself connected with others, thirsty for knowledge and engaged in meaningful activities are keys to successful aging. Aging Summit 2008 will explore our options for lifelong learning and how our community can encourage our growth and utilize our experience. Free for persons 60 and older and persons with disabilities. To register call 800-827-4277 or www.agingsummit2008.org.

