

SANDPIPER

COVERT CONNECTORS

Neighborhoods Kept in the Dark

Dennis Ridz | Chair, Torrey Pines Community Planning Board

Caltrans has chosen the flawed and environmentally destructive Alternative #2 as its "final preferred" alternative for the I-5/SR-56 Connector project, despite the lack of support for this project from the public and the Torrey Pines and Carmel Valley Planning Boards.

This designation is part of the Final Environmental Impact Report (FEIR), and I have to applaud Caltrans for issuing this FEIR at the end of June, just before the July 4 holiday, and when most folks are away for the summer. This is important because the public has only 150 days to file legal action against Caltrans, or Alternative #2 becomes the law. Furthermore, Caltrans only published this Final report to its own website and a few elected officials. No notice was given to residents or companies along I-5 or SR-56 within Torrey Pines or Carmel Valley. No one knows about this project!

Alternative #2 calls for 82 exceptions to design standards listed in the Highway Design Manual (HDM). If the project were brought up to HDM standards, an additional \$541 million would be needed. Neither Torrey Pines nor Carmel Valley opposed something being done to help ease traffic congestion. Both communities chose Alternative #4, a less destructive alternative that supported a "flyover" from west to north and an upgraded Carmel Valley Road connection to SR-56.

Under the Caltrans project, Del Mar Heights Bridge would be torn down and a new multilane bridge with a connector ramp would be built, turning east at Pointe Del Mar homes 107 feet above I-5. Construction of the new bridge would take three years. Just imagine the congestion and impact on the Del Mar Fairgrounds traffic during the County Fair



*Proposed Del Mar Heights Bridge Reconstruction.
KeepSanDiegoMoving.com*

and racing season.

The health of the children attending the Del Mar Hills Academy is directly impacted by the connector ramp that will run within 57 feet of the Academy's main building. The ramp will be six feet below the sound wall, exposing children playing on the basketball court and playing fields to toxic diesel fumes. Caltrans has stated they expect a 25% increase in truck traffic once the connector is finished.

Starting in 2004 and finishing on June 13, 2012, Caltrans's Project Management team held 23 Steering Committee meetings with the Torrey Pines and Carmel Valley Planning Boards regarding the I-5/SR-56 Connector project. Hundreds of pages of public questions were submitted to Caltrans as part of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). After release of the FEIR, Caltrans was cordially invited to explain at a Torrey Pines Community meeting on September 14 why Caltrans chose Alternative #2 as their "final preferred" alternative. Caltrans refused to attend, saying a meeting would be unproductive.

Your voices need to be heard by state officials and Councilmember Barbara Bry before it is too late. □



*Blood of the Band
page 11*



*Don't Blow It!
page 12*



*Face Lift on Main Street
page 8*

FULFILLING ELECTION PROMISES

Earlier this year the City Council clarified our Community Plan and City Regulations to say that Short Term Rentals (STRs) of less than 30 days are not allowed in the residential neighborhoods of Del Mar. They voted 4 to 1 for a compromise solution that would allow each property in Del Mar to be rented for up to 28 days per year with rental periods of no less than 7 days.

The proponents of Short Term Rentals (STRs) are becoming increasingly vocal as the Council proceeds with the code changes required to adopt this 28 / 7 framework.

We support their right to express opinions and voice objections—this is certainly democracy at work.

What should not be overlooked, however, is that a strong majority of voters in our most recent election clearly favored the Council candidates who promised explicitly to protect the residential character of our neighborhoods from unauthorized commercial activity. The growing problem of short term rental business incursions into neighborhoods all over town was voiced in every candidate forum and was featured in the campaign literature of the winning candidates. The Council is doing exactly what it promised

voters—that is also democracy at work.

Homeowners who pay for their homes, pay for upkeep, and pay taxes have a right to be protected from a business use that was never allowed in their residential zone. It is becoming impossible to enjoy quiet neighborhood life when active hotel-like behaviors become more and more common. As one homeowner put it, “my neighbor is profiting from my misery.” In a small community which depends on its stakeholders to nurture our quality of life, including our civic life, we must insist that commercial activity be limited to commercial zones.

We are not the only city up and down the coast trying to wrestle this problem into resolution. We can be proud that our City Council is being resolute in protecting the character of our town. □

Note: See STR article on page 9.



SANDPIPER

The Sandpiper is published by the Del Mar Community Alliance, a 501(C)(4) non-profit. 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.

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September 11, 2017 at Powerhouse Park. Photo Tom Nelson.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

- The Sandpiper welcomes readers' letters and articles.
- Material submitted must include the writer's name, street address, and phone number, and should not exceed 400 words.
- Material selected to be published may be edited or shortened.

Contact us via e-mail or post at:

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MIND YOUR Qs

Tom McGreal | Stratford Court

Note: The editors believe the city budget and other financial documents should be seen as the "drivetrain" of all of our city's operations. This is the first in a series by Tom McGreal to help readers understand the fundamentals of Del Mar's financial system.

Measure Q increased the District Sales tax rate by 1%, which is projected to increase City revenues in Fiscal years 2018 and 2019 by \$1.8 million per year. These new revenues are being held in a Designated Reserve for projects that couldn't otherwise be funded such as undergrounding of the power lines, Shores Park development and Downtown Streetscape.

During the Budget Workshop in June the Staff presented the outline below to the Council of how the funds could potentially be deployed over the coming few years.

(Thousands)	2018	2019	Notes
Undergrounding	\$300	\$500	Implementation, Engineering Design
Shores Park	\$300	\$300	Design & entitlements
Streetscape	\$600	\$600	Downtown
Ending Balance	\$600	\$600	Designated Reserve Balance

This was an initial concept and no decisions on Measure Q spending will be made until the City gathers feedback from the community. This process has been deferred but is expected to take place in the next few months.

Below is an update on the status of the three projects:

Undergrounding is the largest project with an estimated cost of \$15 to \$20 million and citywide implications. The Council is expected to appoint the Oversight Committee to monitor Measure Q spending in October. Mayor Sinnott has talked about the possibility of also appointing an Undergrounding Committee to guide the planning and work with the consultants.

Shores Park is in the master planning process and the Shores Park Committee is working on the design alternatives. The City's latest strategy is to conduct joint planning with the Winston School for optimum efficiency but ensure that each party can develop independently according to its needs. The Council is scheduled to have a joint meeting with the Shores Committee in October to narrow down the remaining design alternatives. Costing these alternatives and getting more public feedback on the design plans will be the next step.

Downtown Streetscape was discussed at the Council meeting on September 18th. Based upon the most recent designs the Streetscape project is now estimated to cost \$4.8 million. The budget decisions, funding plans and timetable for this project will be addressed by the Council in October.

Each of these projects could include a component of →

NEWSUPDATES

GRANNY FLATS

The City Council approved the first reading of the state mandated Accessory Dwelling Unit (ADU) ordinance(see the item n the 'september Sandpiper for ful explanation. The Council also voted to move forward with an incentive program for only two flats that would be restricted to tenants who meet the county standard for affordability. This pilot project is limited to only two flats, subject to later review/expansion

WATERMARK

The draft Environmental Impact Report (EIR) will be available for public review in October. The Sandpiper will alert readers when it is available on our website.

GARDEN

Planners of the boutique condo hotel will be holding a public workshop in October (watch Sandpiper website for date and time).

DOG SURF-A-THON



Sunday, September 10th at Dog Beach
Photo Mike Salt

non-public funding, but they represent a significant cost to the City ranging from \$25 to \$35 million. Measure Q provides an excellent source of long-term funding, but there are many decisions to be made as the City navigates through the spending priorities and funding plans.

We all need to pay attention and participate in these important decisions. These are long-term commitments with long-term ramifications. □



CULTURAL ARTS COMMITTEE

Bill Morris, DMF Communications

Perhaps not as well-known as other Foundation committees such as Grants, Summer Twilight Concerts, Young Del Mar or DMF Talks, the Cultural Arts committee is arguably the crown jewel of the Del Mar Foundation. Cultural Arts is a very robust and productive group who have a razor focus on their two amazing programs: the wildly popular "First Thursdays" subscription series and the "Bluegrass and Beyond" concert series.

In the First Thursdays series, the Cultural Arts group, now in its 18th season, has somehow managed to bring ten renowned mostly local acts to the Powerhouse on the First Thursday of each of the months of September through June. Each season's acts consist of musical performances, with an occasional play (or staged reading) mixed in for variety. Every seat is available only as a 10-month subscription for the low price of \$175, and the number of seats is limited by the small size of the series' main venue, The Del Mar Powerhouse. It goes without saying then that First Thursdays subscriptions sell out quickly every year after tickets go on sale in late April or early May. Announcements of the availability of the next season's tickets are mailed to both current ticket holders and members of a waiting list that was accumulated over the year. This "fair by design" process means that all who want a First Thursdays ticket have the same chance of purchasing one, whether they are existing ticket holders or not. The current chair of the Cultural Arts committee, Donna Shaw, brings considerable expertise and energy to the committee's functions.

I've highlighted the history of Bluegrass and Beyond in a previous column, marveling at the ability to bring multiple world class Bluegrass artists each year to an intimate venue like the Del Mar Powerhouse. The Cultural Arts committee holds their monthly meetings at the Powerhouse starting at 8:30 am on the first Wednesday following that month's First Thursdays performance. Cultural Arts welcomes new committee members, and invites them to come by a committee meeting to learn more. For any other information about the Cultural Arts committee, the First Thursdays program or to be added to the waiting list for the 2018-2019 season ticket sales, send an email to ca@delmarfoundation.org and be sure to include your postal address.

BREEDERS' CUP

Barn Burner at the Beach

Jeffrey Barnouw | Amphitheatre Drive

The Breeders' Cup is coming to Del Mar November 3 and 4, two days and 13 "World Championship" races, ushered in by a Festival beginning October 29 in a "Barn at the Beach" in Powerhouse Park. Construction of the temporary "barn" will begin, according to the Del Mar Thoroughbred Club, at 7 am Thursday October 26 and will take three days to complete. The tent will be deconstructed starting early on Nov 5 and completely removed by 8 pm Nov 7. No tickets needed to watch this.

Each day of the Festival is allotted to a different sponsoring organization, from the Del Mar Schools Education Foundation (Sun Oct 29) and the Breeders Cup Ltd (Mon) – with a break for Halloween - through the Del Mar Foundation (DMF) (Wed) and the Del Mar Village Association (DMVA) (Thu) to Thoroughbred Charities of America (Fri) and VOX Productions (Sat).

Five hundred tickets will be available for each day, except for Wednesday, when the DMF's event admissions are limited to 400, with free admission (reservation required). The Sunday events include a luncheon (\$30) featuring acts (dancing and singing) from Del Mar schools noon to 2 pm and a cocktail reception (cash bar) and dinner (\$50) 5-10 pm. All 8 Del Mar schools will be represented and the theme will be the 50th anniversary of the first, Del Mar Heights. There will be two bands playing for the evening, each incidentally involving a school principal.

The Monday event is Breeders' Cup Rood and Riddle Post-Position Draw, a cocktail reception 3-8 pm accompanying the drawing of positions for each of the 13 races, by "local and world-wide celebrities." It will be covered by local media as well as TVG and NBC and is by invitation only.

The DMF-sponsored event is called "Bourbon, Bluegrass and the Breeders' Cup," 6-9 pm Wed Nov 1, a free community event featuring live bluegrass music from The Railsplitters and Grammy-winning artists Laurie Lewis and Tom Rozum, bourbon and whiskey tastings, and southern-style fare. The Foundation will be joined by the Del Mar Historical Society, which is holding a silent auction, including a 1941 Stearman bi-plane ride, a sailboat ride in San Diego Harbor, and a 3-day weekend stay in a 2-bedroom Del Mar Beach cottage.

The DMVA's "Best at the Barn" will be a tasting event featuring 15-20 of San Diego's best restaurant chefs, present at the event, and a live band. Tickets \$200. There will be an auction Friday, Nov 3, benefitting Thoroughbred Charities, also with live music, cocktails and hors d'oeuvres, \$100, with VIP admission including open bar \$250.

The final day is an opportunity to watch the Breeders' Cup World Championship races on TV while enjoying hors d'oeuvres, cocktails and post-race entertainment in a VIP setting. It will be open 2 to 10 pm and cost \$250.

You can get ticket information for the various events at: <http://breederscupfestival.com/upcoming> ■

ROVING TEEN REPORTER

Social Competition

Sammy Hallal | Torrey Pines High School Senior

Whether it's Facebook, Instagram or Snapchat, or older sites like MySpace and LinkedIn, social media platforms have changed the way we communicate. Rather than face to face, people now communicate from screen to screen, especially considering that 81% of Americans have a social media profile, with people ages 16 to 24 spending the most time online, according to Statista.

Although social media use is not exclusive to teenagers, to some outside of our age group it may seem like we are all obsessed with our phones and stuck in a bubble, and this is not necessarily the case. Social media sites have given us a new way to keep in touch with friends, expand social circles and express ourselves.

"I use Instagram and Snapchat pretty often, maybe a little too often," Ali, a student at Francis Parker School said. "Still, I think it's a great way to see what all my peers are up to as well as share some of my own personal experiences."

Many of my friends even have multiple accounts on one social media platform, particularly on Instagram. One account is for a wider audience, where people post more generic posts, while the other is for their closest friends. On the second account, teens share a less filtered and more realistic version of their lives.

"The problem with online profiles like Instagram is that what you see isn't an accurate representation of [the users'] actual lives," said John, a student at Cathedral Catholic High School. "They focus on trying to look cool to all of their followers and it's basically just a competition to see who has the best life."

When people post pictures that make their life seem much more glamorous than it actually is, it often leads to jealousy between peers, which just gets teens caught in a feedback loop of posting and sharing images that will get them the most likes and not what is real. In a study at University of California, Los Angeles, researchers monitored the brains of teenagers while they used an app resembling Instagram. The team found that each time a student received a like or a comment it activated four regions of the brain, especially its reward center.

"A few weeks ago I decided to take a weeklong break from all social media because I started to think I might be addicted," Kirsten, a student at Torrey Pines High School, said. "It wasn't until then that I realized the amount of social media that I use... and I'm happy I did it."

Just like in the real world, people often search for ways to make their life appear more glamorous than it actually is, and social media makes this very easy. The owner of a profile has complete control over what to post, and can therefore paint whatever picture he or she wants, no matter how far off the truth it is. The challenge faced by teenagers, including myself, is to find a balance between our real lives and our online ones. ■



Del Mar Community Connections

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OCTOBER 2017

Ashley Simpkins, Office Administrator

DMCC's flu shot clinic is October 12

It is estimated that approximately 80% of flu deaths in the United States occur among those who are age 65 and older. DMCC offers an annual flu vaccination clinic, and this year it will take place on Thursday, October 12 at our offices on 225 9th Street. The vaccine is specialized for the senior population and is covered for Medicare patients. Call or email the DMCC office to reserve your time slot and get the shot!

Introducing the Del Mar Village Shuttle

DMCC is proud to expand our transportation services with the Del Mar Village Shuttle! Beginning Thursday, October 5 at 10 AM, our DMCC Sprinter van will pick up senior Del Mar residents at their homes and make a circuit around the village with stops at the post office, the banks, the library, and the dry cleaner. Do all your village errands and leave the driving to DMCC. The Del Mar Village Shuttle will make its circuit on the first Thursday of every month. Please call the DMCC office to find out more or to reserve your spot on the shuttle.

Reintroducing the Movie Van

The DMCC Movie Van is back by popular demand! Our DMCC van will pick up senior Del Mar residents at their homes and take them to enjoy a movie at the luxurious AMC La Jolla movie theater on the second Thursday of each month. The movie selection is determined when the schedule is released by the theater, so make sure to join our email list if you'd like to know ahead of time what movie we're seeing. Riders must pay for their own movie ticket. Please call the DMCC office to find out more about eligibility or to reserve your spot on the van.

For more information...

Please contact the DMCC office at (858) 792-7565 or dmcc@dmcc.cc for more information on these programs, or to join our mailing list.

PIPE UP

John O'Connell | Coast Boulevard

With great respect to Mr Olson and his learned opinion, I would like to submit a counter point to the commentary piece, "Bike Physics."

Should our traffic laws distinguish between cars and bikes? My answer is an emphatic NO.

Bicycles are held to the same traffic laws as vehicles precisely because of the danger they can present to themselves and the general public just like the danger motor vehicles present.

It's unfortunate that some bicyclists are "averse" to stopping. Yes, a vehicle operator's simple tap on the accelerator vs the physical effort required for a bicyclist to move forward from a full stop is significant.

However, I have seen firsthand the poor behavior of a small percentage of single and group riders who have an aversion to stopping at our myriad traffic calming measures.

I've witnessed two 5 year old twins and their grandma experience a "near hit" by riders choosing to ignore the stop signs and the fact that there are pedestrians crossing with the right of way.

I try to take the time to thank those that obey the traffic laws.

Don't forget that exercise is the reason many ride bicycles in the first place. By definition, exercise requires physical effort. If it's too much for some riders to stop, maybe something less strenuous should be the order of the day?

An "Idaho stop" creates multiple problematic scenarios where bicycle riders may or may not stop or yield, as they individually judge traffic, visibility and pedestrian presence. My 24 years of experience along a major bike route (Coast Blvd) is that too many bicycle riders fail to stop or yield as it is. The rolling stop suggestion caters to a small percentage that already fail to self-police or comply with current laws. Stop means stop.

My final plea; are you stopping by the Post Office and you parked in the 20 minute spot at Vista Del Mar? Please, walk the 10-20 yards up the street to Stratford Ct and 15th and use the crosswalk. The same goes for parking in the Seagrove lot and crossing Coast Blvd. to Jakes, Powerhouse Park, the beach, etc.

Please cross where the city has spent thousands of dollars, researching, planning and building a safe place for you to cross with the right of way. ■



Photo illustration Art Olson, September Sandpiper

CLARIFYING CONFUSION

Dolores Davies | Crest Road

Del Mar Design Guidelines—Fact & Fiction

The Sandpiper has worked hard to keep Del Mar residents informed of recommendations flowing from the work of the City's Ad Hoc Development Review Process Citizen's Advisory Committee – most recently, the draft Design Guidelines currently out for review. Developed by RRM Consultants in collaboration with City Planning staff and the Ad Hoc Committee, the Design Guidelines reflect input from monthly meetings and public workshops held to gather feedback.

Unfortunately, anonymous persons are spreading alarmist, factually incorrect information about the Guidelines. To clarify misconceptions, this writer interviewed Matt Bator, the City's senior planner, who has guided the Ad Hoc Committee in its efforts to refine and vet the Guidelines with various stakeholders.

Guidelines are Interpretive—Shoulds not Shalls

The Design Guidelines, which are still in draft form, are interpretive in nature, explained Bator. As guidelines, and not regulations, they are intended to provide greater clarity to the standards expressed in the City's Design Review Ordinance (DRO).

"The purpose of the Guidelines is to give residents, design professionals and members of the Design Review Board (DRB) guidance when determining how the Design Review Ordinance should be interpreted, relative to the goals, objectives and policies of the Community Plan," said Bator. "They would not be codified regulations or DROs, nor would they expressly prohibit anything—they are "shoulds," not "shalls." Of course we want them to be followed, but we also realize that every situation is different, so circumstances will dictate whether a particular guideline is relevant for a project."

Applicants, neighbors, and other stakeholders were unanimous in their desire for a less subjective design review process, and the purpose of the guidelines is to introduce more objectivity into the process by quantifying key terms, and providing graphic examples to better convey design standards.

"To make standards like excessive bulk and mass and acceptable view blockage more objective, it's necessary to quantify them," said Bator, "even if they may not be applicable in every situation. The DRB will have the guidelines to help them in interpreting the DRO in a more objective manner than currently exists for many situations. But, these decision makers will also have the authority to disregard a particular guideline if they deem it does not apply to a project due to a unique circumstance, site constraints, topography, historic considerations, etc."

No Ban on Basements

Another inaccuracy disseminated about the Guidelines is that they will prohibit basements. But there is no such prohibition in the draft.

"The Guidelines do suggest that careful consideration be given to exposed basements to reduce the →

PRESERVING THE PRESERVE

Nancy Fisher | 24th Street

As preliminary plans go forward for the development of a luxury resort on the bluff property overlooking Del Mar's North Beach (Dog Beach), the City, at its September 18th council meeting, started a dialogue on how best to utilize the public lands that border the property on three sides. Ideas range from the location of ADA accessibility to public restrooms, and two Councilmembers spoke strongly in favor of honoring the terms upon which the Scripps Bluff property was acquired, which was that it would remain a natural preserve.

Jan McMillan, a Del Mar resident and former mayor, told the Sandpiper that understanding the words used to memorialize land is important. "Preserves are quiet places for reflection. The word 'parks,' on the other hand, connotes active recreation such as sports, games, picnics, and other events. The words should not be used interchangeably. The James G. Scripps Bluff Preserve honors the man who donated this bluff to the City as a 'preserve,' and the word 'park' should be removed from any description of this parcel's intended use."

Neither the City nor the developers anticipate problems related to the use of the public lands. Brad Termini, CEO of Zephyr Partners, one of the developers, explained that "overall our goal is to increase accessibility to the entire bluff top so everyone can enjoy the land and views while benefitting from amenities like walking trails and public parking. With respect to the Scripps Preserve, it is Del Mar's land and it will be the community who decides what

they would like to see there." Kathleen Garcia, Del Mar's Planning and Community Development Director, confirms that "in discussions, the applicant has indicated that they are interested in working with the City to support the community's vision for these public lands."

At the meeting, City Staff suggested a process for public outreach that included the possibility of establishing a Steering Committee composed of members of seven other relevant City committees (Parks and Recreation, the Lagoon Committee, and several others), along with two workshops to elicit and discuss ideas, and to review alternatives for land use only. Finally, recommendations would be taken to the City Council for direction to staff, with the goal of having the City's Environmental Impact Report (EIR) coincide as closely as possible with that of the proposed resort. The Council expressed support for the concept of including the Preserve as part of a Specific Plan that will be created for the resort, so



that one plan covers the entire bluff, while emphasizing that this should be done in a way that does not hold up the private development portion of the Plan.

After much discussion, and consideration of the facts that the Specific Plan for the resort has been submitted and that the EIR will be completed in December, Deputy Mayor Dwight Worden suggested, and Council Members agreed, that it would be most efficient to first work with staff, the Planning Commission, and the developers, rather than appoint a Steering Committee, and then seek public engagement. "When we get something conceptually identified, then we'll vet that through our community." ■

appearance of bulk and mass, limit the appearance of apparent building height, and reduce alterations to existing topography when it would be inconsistent with the established character of the neighborhood. This is not the same as saying you can't build a basement," said Bator.

Nor would the Guidelines limit all new decks, porches, and trellises to a standard size. Instead, Bator explained, the Guidelines are an attempt to uphold important design principles reflected in the Community Plan and referenced in the DRO.

He added, "The recommendations for decks, porches and trellises are intended to reduce excessive appearance of massing and scale, and ensure that the proportionality of building size to lot size intended by a Floor Area Ratio (FAR) limitation is maintained."

Homes Will Not Become Nonconforming

Another false claim is that the approval of the new Design Guidelines would make some homes "nonconforming," which would prohibit those homeowners from rebuilding existing homes in the event of a catastrophic disaster. →

"Homes become non-conforming relative to the Del Mar Municipal Code when they no longer conform to current development regulations," explained Bator. "The Design Guidelines are not 'regulations.' If a home is damaged beyond the 50% building valuation allowed by Chapter 30.76, regulatory non-conformities need to be addressed. But, the guidelines themselves do not create 'nonconforming' situations."

Positive Impact on Property Values

While some stakeholders were concerned that the Guidelines might negatively impact property values, a review of the data demonstrates that strong design review ordinances and guidelines enhance property values by preserving communities' distinctive character and environment. The Ad Hoc Committee gathered data on the 23 California cities that boast higher median incomes than Del Mar. The majority of these cities have more restrictive development review processes than Del Mar, and only two—Malibu and Manhattan Beach—do not have a design review-type process but instead have complex zoning regulations. ■

PEDESTRIANSCAPE

Julie Maxey-Allison | 10th Street

To repave or not to repave is the question the City Council wrestled with when a new Downtown Streetscape Project plan for our major thoroughfare, Camino Del Mar, also known as Historic US 101 Route, was presented at the September 18 meeting. The City Council decided to appropriate \$300,000 for construction drawings covering 15th to 9th Street and related environmental issues covering the full project scope. The total cost for the Downtown Streetscape and paving project is estimated at \$4,865,088.

Spurlock Landscape Architects, one of the original designers of the 1996 Streetscape plan, returned with an updated model of the 93 detailed pages that aimed to retain the “eclectic character” of Del Mar through landscaping and integrated safe, pleasant pathways for pedestrians and bicycle riders in addition to the asphalt auto route. The Spurlock group submitted an amended version that incorporated feedback from community workshops, the Del Mar Village Association, the City’s Sustainability Advisory Board and the design approach of “Complete Streets” adopted by San Diego with space for walkers and bicyclists. These various recommendations were separated

into “Have to Do” and “Nice to Do” categories.

Following the Spurlock group presentation, City staff stated their recommendations with the goal, once the City Council approves the project, of beginning the bid process in November, and have a contractor on board in January, reported Kristen Crane, Assistant City Manager.

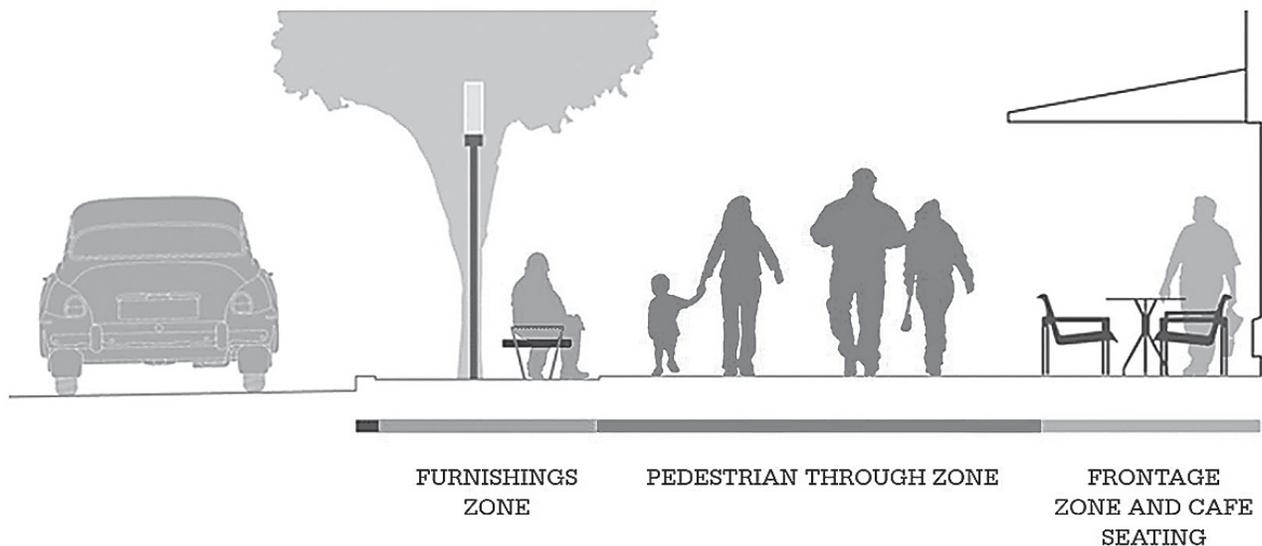
When completed it will be yet another change for our road that likely started as a dirt path for people, horses, wagons and mules and other animals. Paths were first improved with the introduction of concrete in the 1890s that paved the way for new modes of transport, first the bicycle then the automobile. By 1910 public agencies were created to build and maintain roads. Our now Historic US Route 101 was a link in one of the longest north/south routes in the nation, 1540 miles, commissioned in 1926, connecting the San Diego/Tijuana border to Olympia, Washington before Interstate 5 opened.

In October, the Council will consider which aspects of the full scope of work can be done in 2018. They could decide to do the whole thing or chop the project into phases as Del Mar tries to tame its major street. Meanwhile, it will

get a fresh look: the Garden Club is scheduled to beautify Camino Del Mar with new plantings in cooperation with the City and The Del Mar Foundation. ■



Photo Julie Maxey-Allison.



The draft Streetscape Plan Addendum (Sept. 12, 2017) calls for zones to provide organizational consistency for the location of elements along the streetscape. The furnishings zone, for example, would be used for street trees, landscaping, transit stops, street lights, newspaper racks, trash receptacles, lighting, bike racks, and the like.” Source: 9/18 Council packet.

PC PUNTS

Don Mosier | Rimini Road



The mosaic wall at the library was built in 2003.



Streetscape consultants cited both photos of the library wall between 13th and 14th on Camino del Mar as an example of streetscape that reinforces Del Mar's coastal character and enriches public space.

Source Del Mar City Hall.

On September 12, 2017, the Planning Commission of the City of Del Mar held a public hearing on application ZA17-001 and LCPA17-002, changes in the zoning code to regulate Short Term Rentals in most zones of the city. The most relevant changes adopted by the City Council and presented to the Planning Commission for approval or comments were these:

Short Term Rental (STR) of a dwelling unit subject to the following limitations:

1. The rental term shall be a minimum of 7 consecutive days.
2. The total number of days the dwelling unit is rented as a STR shall not exceed 28 days per calendar year.
3. Prior to engaging in an agreement for STR, the owner shall register the property with the City in accordance with Chapter 30.96.
4. The maximum number of cars permitted for the rental shall not exceed the number of existing (unobstructed and unoccupied) off-street parking spaces for the property.
5. The maximum number of occupants permitted for the rental, shall comply with maximum California Building Code occupancy requirements and shall generally not exceed two people per bedroom, or a total of two people per bedroom plus an additional two people for the dwelling unit as a whole, as applicable.

After hearing extensive public testimony, the Planning Commission failed to support the draft resolution for the zoning changes, and instead voted to recommend more study of the STR incidence and impact in each zone of the city. The votes were to allow a 1-year forbearance period to collect data on STR location, duration of stay, income generated, problems identified (5-0 vote). The second vote was not to approve of the draft ordinance with the 28 day maximum rental period and 7 day minimum stay, but approval of STR as an accessory use, and no restrictions on STRs in Central Commercial, North Commercial, and Professional Commercial zones (4-1 vote, Chair Bakker against).

The Planning Commission thus failed to support the regulatory framework adopted by the City Council, and now the Council must decide how to proceed. The decisions by the Planning Commission were advisory to the Council, and the Council has the option to support or reject the adopted advisory comments. Stay tuned for the next round in this long process. ■

COUNCIL-MANAGER MODEL

Wayne Dernetz | 9th Street

Wayne Dernetz, a former Del Mar City Manager, has worked in several other California cities as city manager, finance director, and city attorney.

In 1959, residents of Del Mar narrowly approved municipal incorporation following a heated campaign. Soon after, the new City Council adopted the "Council-Manager" form of government for the fledgling city.

The Council-Manager form has three essential elements:

- The City Council delegates its executive authority to the City Manager. Executive authority consists of the day-to-day administrative functions necessary for the efficient operation of city services including: hiring, firing, and supervising employees; implementing Council approved policies and programs, efficiently and equitably; recommending budgets for City Council approval; and ensuring that hiring and contract awards are based on merit rather than favoritism. The ongoing pursuit of efficiency, merit-based selection procedures, and equity in providing city services – consistent with City Council approved goals and policies – are the hallmarks of the effective city manager.
- As the elected representatives of city residents, the City Council retains all its legislative powers. These include adopting city ordinances and policies; approving annual budgets; imposing taxes and fees for services (consistent with Constitutional limitations); establishing priorities; carrying out duties and responsibilities imposed by State law; approving or ratifying all expenditures and contracts; and appointing and removing the city manager upon a majority vote, subject to any employment agreements and State law.
- City Council members are restricted from giving orders to employees and from interfering with the City Manager's executive authority. The City Council may hire and fire the City Manager, but may not direct the Manager on how to manage. Other provisions of Del Mar's Council-Manager ordinance are defined in Chapters 2.20, 2.24 and 2.28 of Title 2 of the Municipal Code.

The Council-Manager form of government originated during the Progressive Era in U.S. politics, at the close of the 1800s, to counter widespread political corruption across the country. Abuses of the "spoils system," partisan machine politics, and open corruption were rampant, including within local governments. Reformers combined the principles of Frederick Taylor's "Scientific Management," emphasizing rational, evidenced based decision making, with the emerging principles for governing private corporations, featuring a professionally trained chief executive running day-to-day business affairs under direction of a policy making board of directors elected by and representing shareholders.

Merging principles of scientific management with the corporate structure enabled cities to operate more

DEL MAR'S SIX LARGEST PROPERTY TAXPAYERS

Compilation from the City of Del Mar's Comprehensive Annual Financial Report for FY Ended June 30, 2016.

FY 2015-16

Name, Business Type, Assessed Valuation (FY 2015-2016)

1. Lhoberge LP - Property Management \$68,648,893
2. GLL BVK Properties – Property Mgmt \$45,535,706
3. Allred Family Living Trust \$31,068,323
4. Del Mar Thoroughbred Club \$23,784,139
5. Pickens Madeleine A Trust \$23,460,000
6. Los Arboles Apartment LLC \$22,844,355

Ed note: Lhoberge LP is part of LaSalle Hotel Properties, which acquired L'Auberge Del Mar in 2012. L'Auberge is currently managed by Destination Hotels. GLL BVK is the former property management company for the Del Mar Plaza, which was recently sold to Brixton Capital.

efficiently and equitably. Today, more than 3,500 U.S. cities, about half the total, have adopted the council manager plan. And according to one recent survey, 473 of California's 482 cities are governed under this plan.

Today's city managers are highly educated, skilled professionals. Two thirds possess master's degrees or higher. Typically, they serve an apprenticeship by working in a city manager's office as an assistant or a department manager before securing an appointment.

Experienced, successful city managers are in high demand. For smaller cities, retaining the city manager can be challenging.

Larger cities offer higher compensation packages and can hire the best qualified city managers. When issues of discord or dissatisfaction with a manager's performance arise, city councils are well advised to try to restore the relationship rather than to abandon it. The costs of recruiting and hiring a new city manager are high.

And, where the relationship between City Council and the manager are good, the city council must be willing to defend the city manager from unwarranted public criticisms. City managers are easily targeted as political scapegoats, or by disgruntled employees. Their only defense against unwarranted criticisms is to request a public hearing. Council members must take care to evaluate city manager performance based on their own experience and knowledge of the situation, and not to rely solely upon public opinion. ■

DMF TALK

Original Inhabitants

Julie Maxey-Allison | 10th Street

Way before any of us, the native Ipai (aka the Kumeyaay) lived in northern San Diego County perhaps as long as 10,000 years ago. Where did they come from? What changes did they live through? Where are they now?

In his DMFTalk “Past and Present: the Original Inhabitants of San Diego County,” David Toler, a descendant of the La Chappa, Gauchena and Nejo clans and a long-time leader of his community, told the fascinating tale of our region’s very first residents.



David Toler. Photo Bill Morris.

He began with the Ipai ancestors’ account of their creation: the first man and woman were formed of and awakened from clay from the Colorado River. Moving forward, Toler described (as documented in his book “Blood of the Band, an Ipai Family Story”) the momentous changes to the Ipai way of life over the many years. He presented a map that pointed out the locations where his ancestors flourished, many in places where we live now, from Oceanside to Ensenada. However, there are still some pockets of native territory that have not been disturbed and pictographs remain to remind us of past eras. These communications from ancient times painted on rocks can be found around our area, their elusive meanings open to various interpretations.

Toler’s illustrated narrative highlighted the drama of all the tumultuous transformations the Ipai (meaning the People) have lived through—the historical, ethnographic and archaeological shifts. Everything changed. He spoke of the various treaties made with the tribes as their land was taken over by others—the Spanish, the Mexicans, the Americans—and the confusion over land rights with the successions. Most treaties were not honored. But, he noted, though adapting through the relentless surge of change was hard, the Ipai persisted.

Toler personalized the recent history of the lives and lineage of his Ipai family. He focused on his grandmother, Helen Trask Lawson (whose Indian parents were half Kumeyaay and full-blooded Kumeyaay) through



SEAWALL SUPPORTERS RISE

Don Mosier | Rimini Road

The Sea Level Rise Technical Advisory Committee (STAC) had its 15th meeting on September 21st in the temporary council chambers. While the first 13 meetings drew little public response, the last two have drawn overflow audiences concerned with the draft adaptation program released last September (yes, it has taken a year for the implications of that report to sink in). The STAC listened to two hours of citizen testimony, mostly from residents who own property in or near the beachfront, after a brief update on the federal and state regulations driving the proposed revisions to our Local Coastal Program (LCP) by Amanda Lee of the Planning Department.

Most comments supported retention of sea walls along the beach, sand replenishment as the preferred strategy to maintain beach width, and the possible addition of jetties to reduce the normal southward migration of sand during the winter. Several speakers emphasized that the sea walls protected much of the inland beach community from flooding because the beachfront homes are 6 feet higher than those further east. Raising habitable floor elevations on new construction and major remodels will likely be required because of the new Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) map outlining the 100 year flood risk in Del Mar, but several speakers suggested ignoring this mandate. “Retreat” was the strategy that drew the most ire from speakers. Most comments focused on the risk from sea level rise that would impact the beach community, with much less attention on flood risks from the San Dieguito River or bluff erosion that might take down the railroad tracks and, eventually, the adjacent properties.

There were comments asserting conflicts between the Beach Preservation Initiative (BPI), a citizens’ initiative approved by Del Mar voters in 1988, and the current advice from the California Coastal Commission. The BPI states that sea walls are an allowed use as long as they are constructed on private property, with proper engineering; an encroachment up to 5 feet is allowed on public land subject to additional requirements. In effect, this means that BPI-compliant sea walls fronting private property are not going to be removed absent amendments to the BPI, which would require a public vote. That would certainly not happen if the opinions expressed by the audience at the STAC meeting were to be shared by a majority of Del Mar voters. ■

photographs from the early days of cameras and film and with later pictures of those who continue to prosper on the 18 reservations in place today throughout San Diego County.

David Toler has served for many years as an elected member of the Tribal Council of the San Pasqual Band of Mission Indians in Valley Center, California. He is also vice-chair of the Kumeyaay Diegueno Land Conservancy, a board member of the Inter-Tribal Court of Southern California, and a member of the Kumeyaay Heritage Preservation Committee. ■

MARKET MENSAS

Jeff Barnouw | Amphitheatre Drive



Left to right: Clarissa Wang, Fabian Huertas, May Nou Nhiyi.
Photo Leslie Robson.

The Del Mar Farmers Market maintains a tradition of awarding scholarships to qualified vendors, their children and grandchildren, with the requirement that the student work part or full time at the market. At the time of its founding in 1986 it was determined that, as a non-profit organization, any profits after expenses would be devoted to civic and educational purposes. The scholarship program was established in memory of an early market farmer manager, Mary Maciel, and has given over 100 grants.

This year three scholarships were awarded. Qing Wang, known as Clarissa at the market, with her husband, Ray, started a farming business in 2004. They have grown →

about 2000 different fruit trees since then. They also raise turkeys and chickens for eggs, and offer a variety of greens at Rays Subtropical at the market. With so many exotic produce items, Clarissa and Ray always can report on the nutritional value of each item and suggest ways to prepare it. When Ray had a medical emergency recently, Clarissa was so inspired by the care the nurses and physicians provided, that she decided to apply to nursing school at Mt. San Jacinto College. "I have been pretty busy working at our farm and taking care of our son, Dillon. In two years he will go to college. I will have extra time, so studying on the weekdays while working with my husband at the Del Mar Farmers Market on Saturday is a perfect match."

Nursing is the goal for another recipient, May Nou Nhiyi. May Nou helps her father, Neng, at the French Bakery Le Rendez-Vous, selling breads, pastries and desserts. Her interest in nursing is rooted in a sense of caring for her family. "It'll be a new experience for me. I chose nursing because I could learn how to make people feel better and about which treatments they need." May Nou is attending Mira Costa College.

A repeat recipient of a DMFM educational scholarship, Fabian Huertas, is the market manager (Sandpiper Feb 2017). He is studying Business Marketing at Cal State San Marcos. A Dean's list student, graduating in Spring of 2018, Fabian's goals for the market are to make it an appealing destination for all, "to create a beautiful atmosphere" at the current location at the Shores and soon at the new Del Mar City Hall.

The second oldest market in the county, DMFM donates 100% of net profits to support not only the educational goals of the vendors, but also other Del Mar non-profit groups. So remember, when you shop at the DMFM, you will be getting more than beautiful flowers and local produce, you will be helping the market give back to the community. Saturdays 1 - 4 PM, at 225 9th Street. □

RAKIN IT IN

Editorial in the December 2013 Issue

"It shall be unlawful for any person to use or operate within the City, any portable machine, powered with a gasoline engine or electric motor, to blow leaves, dirt and other debris off sidewalks, driveways, lawns, and other surfaces. (Ord. 535)" So reads the Del Mar ordinance on noise regulations.

It further states that the purpose of the ordinance is "to secure and promote the public health, comfort, safety and welfare, and to protect the rights of its citizens to privacy and freedom from nuisance... to prohibit unnecessary, excessive, and annoying noises at levels which are detrimental to the health and welfare of the community, and to minimize airborne dust and pollen."

Leaf blowers have been banned here for about a decade, but they continue to flourish even though they compromise the health of all living organisms. Enforcement is lax and neighbors hesitate to "turn in" violators even though lower

income minorities/gardeners ironically are being harmed the most.

We are playing a deadly game here. Starting up a noise-polluting, two stroke leaf blower is much more air polluting than cars. They fire up at more than 100mph and kick up animal fecal matter, allergens, chemicals, molds, and other toxins which travel directly into human breathing channels. This deadly particulate matter is hazardous to human health as well as plant, insect, and animal life. →



CITY HALL MOVES UP

Don Mosier | Rimini Road

The framing of the new City Hall and Town Hall is now almost completed, and many tradespersons are at work on plumbing, electrical, and heating components. Additional concrete pours continue for planters and stairways, and major utility connection work will proceed in the next couple of weeks. The City Council approved funding for audiovisual and technology infrastructure at their September 18th meeting, projects that include eight security cameras and a Town Hall dais. The construction of the complex Town Hall roof supports has been completed, and EC Constructors, Lakeside, CA are a bit more relaxed now. The project remains on schedule and within the contingency budget.



The wooden trusses supporting the Town Hall roof. The view is looking up from inside the building towards the northwest.



View of project from 10th Street and Camino Del Mar looking northwest. The Town Hall is in the center of the picture and parts of City Hall are to the left. The large white blocks are insulation being placed around the foundation.



Workers busy installing wire mesh to support the stucco finish on the front of City Hall, and also completing the concrete pour for a planter box. View looking northwest from in front of the City Hall lobby entrance. Photos Don Mosier. □

Both the Natural Resources Defense Council and the California Air Resources Board strongly recommend banning these devices to cut down particulate matter. They have documented the harm caused including cardiovascular disease, heart attacks, depressed immunity, elevated blood pressure and cholesterol, hearing loss, and asthma. The small benefits hardly match the deadly cost.

We have neat yards and compromised health. Why continue doing this to ourselves?

What to do? Rake, sweep, recycle, change the enforcement targets, and educate residents. Raking and sweeping may take a little longer but are healthy activities. Leaves are excellent sources of energy and food for plants if allowed to decompose in mulchers. Leaf blowers contribute to global warming. Leaves have a cooling impact.

It is way past time for vigorous citizen action. Don't wait for someone else to handle it. With concerted effort, one citizen at a time, we could be leaf-blower-free early →

in 2014. On most days we see a blower on almost every block. Each of us needs to speak up ("Hi, I want you to know that those leaf blowers are banned here, and your owner could receive a pretty big fine - maybe as much as \$1,000. I would appreciate it if you would stop using it.") Encourage both gardeners and owners to help improve the quality of the air we all breathe. If we encounter resistance, call Patty at city hall 755 9313 to follow up and issue a citation if necessary. □

NUCLEAR HOT POTATO

Don Mosier | Rimini Road

A legal settlement was reached on August 28th between Citizens Oversight and Southern California Edison (SCE) regarding removal of highly radioactive spent fuel rods from San Onofre to somewhere else. Editorials in both the San Diego Union-Tribune and the Los Angeles Times have been positive about the agreement to move the nuclear waste, but local activists have criticized the agreement as too weak and too generous to SCE, particularly with regard to the "Commercially Reasonable" provisions.

Here are the key terms of the agreement (<http://bit.ly/SONGS-settlement>) released jointly by Citizen Oversight and SCE for our readers to decide.

- Pending development of a permanent Department of Energy (DOE) repository for the Spent Fuel, SCE shall use "Commercially Reasonable" efforts to relocate the Spent Fuel to an Offsite Storage Facility.
- The "Commercial Reasonableness" standard ensures that any actions taken under the Settlement Agreement are prudent and take into account a number of factors including technical feasibility, costs, and utility customer interests.

To facilitate SCE's efforts to relocate the Spent Fuel offsite, SCE shall spend up to \$4,000,000 on the following eight "SCE Commitments":

1. Maintain an "Experts Team" to advise SCE on any proposed relocation of Spent Fuel;
 2. Develop a conceptual plan for the offsite transportation of Spent Fuel;
 3. Develop a strategic plan ("Strategic Plan") to support the development of a Commercially Reasonable Offsite Storage Facility;
 4. Make a formal, written request to the owners of Palo Verde regarding the development of an expanded Interim Storage Facility (ISFSI) to store Spent Fuel;
 5. Develop the Inspection and Maintenance Program for the California Coastal Commission 2015-approved ISFSI by October 6, 2020; and
 6. Develop a written plan addressing contingencies for damaged or cracked canisters consistent with Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) regulations and requirements by October 6, 2020.
- To keep the Plaintiffs and other stakeholders apprised of SCE's progress, the Settlement Agreement also calls for SCE to:
7. Provide Plaintiffs with a report regarding its progress in fulfilling the SCE Commitments, then reporting at prescribed intervals thereafter until completed; and to
 8. Provide Plaintiffs with a monthly progress report on the transfer of Spent Fuel from the "wet" pools to the ISFSI.

DEMOGRAPHIC & ECONOMIC STATISTICS

Compilation from the City of Del Mar's Comprehensive Annual Financial Report for FY Ended June 30, 2016.

Year	Housing Units	Population	Employed	Per Capita Income
2016	2,542	4,274	2,700	\$ [not listed]
2015	2,605	4,238	2,600	\$139,050
2014	2,605	4,234	3,000	\$132,302
2013	2,637	4,199	3,000	\$128,496
2012	2,637	4,194	2,900	\$125,512
2011	2,542	4,187	2,900	\$120,078
2010	2,542	4,660	2,800	\$100,926
2009	2,537	4,591	2,800	\$ 99,556
2008	2,519	4,580	2,900	\$ 97,743
2007	2,511	4,553	2,900	\$102,596

SCE will implement actions or recommendations identified in the Strategic Plan subject to certain conditions, such as California Public Utilities Commission ("CPUC") approval of the costs associated with transfer of the Spent Fuel to a Commercially Reasonable Offsite Storage Facility.

SCE's obligations under the Settlement Agreement expire when/if:

- The SCE Commitments are satisfied and neither an Offsite Storage Facility or implementation of the Strategic Plan are Commercially Reasonable; or
- Laws prohibit relocation of the Spent Fuel; or
- An NRC-licensed, Offsite Storage Facility agrees to accept the Spent Fuel on Commercially Reasonable terms; or
- A permanent DOE facility is NRC-licensed to store the Spent Fuel; or
- The initial term of the 2015 Coastal Development Permit expires in 2035.

In exchange for SCE's Commitments, Plaintiffs shall dismiss their legal challenge with prejudice. This allows for SCE to complete the ISFSI and to transfer all Spent Fuel to dry storage pending the availability of an Offsite Storage Facility. Plaintiffs also commit to supporting the Settlement Agreement in current and future proceedings. ■

DEL MAR COMMUNITY CALENDAR

Highlights for October 2017

DEL MAR FARMERS MARKET

Every Saturday

from 1-4 pm in the Upper Shores Park

225 Ninth Street behind the Community Building

City Council Meeting. October 2, 2017, 6:00 PM-9:00 PM @ City Council Chambers

DM Community Connections - Tuesday Lunch Connections. Tuesday, October 3, noon to 1:30 pm, Del Mar Community Building, 225 9th St.

DM Library Kids. Kindergarten Gear Up. Come participate in fun activities & practice kindergarten readiness skills, with a different skill each week. Tuesday, Oct. 3, 10, 19, 17 & 24, 3:15pm.

DM Library Adults/Teens. Meditation Class . Wednesday, October 4, 11 & 25, 6pm.

Ad Hoc Development Review Process Citizens' Advisory Committee. October 5, 2017, 6:00 PM-9:00 PM @ Del Mar Council Chambers at Southfair

DM Foundation - First Thursdays: Gustavo Romero. Thu, Oct 5, 7-8:15pm St. Peters. Open to subscription holders only!

DM Library Kids. Love on a Leash. Reading to dogs has been shown to improve a child's reading skills, confidence and self-esteem. Thursday October 5 & 19, 4pm. (1st & 3rd Thursday of the month.)

DM Library Adults/Teens. Affordable African Travel Discussion Group. Thursday, October 5, 6pm. (1st Thursday of the month.)

DM Library Kids. InspirArt Studio. Art Program for K—8th grade children. Learn techniques and principles that are applicable in the field of fine arts and taught in professional art training schools. Taught by Canyon Crest Academy High School Students. Fridays in October, 3:30pm.

DM Community Connections - Annual Fundraising Gala: "La La Land" Saturday, October 7.

DM Library Adults/Teens. Adult Coloring. All materials provided. Saturday, October 7 & 21, 10am. (1st & 3rd Saturday of the month.)

DM Foundation - Picnic at Powerhouse Park. Sun, Oct 8, 12-4pm Powerhouse Park

DM Library Kids. Kid's Chess. All skill levels welcome. Supplies provided. Sunday, October, 8, 15 & 22, 2:15pm.

DM Foundation - DMF Talks: Dan Cartamil. SIO on Sharks. Mon, Oct 9, 6-8pm Powerhouse

Planning Commission. October 10, 2017, 6:00 PM-10:00 PM @ Del Mar Council Chambers at Southfair

DM Community Connections - Healthy Aging Forum with Dr. Kalina - Topic: Food and Radiant Health. Tuesday, October 10, 9:30 to 11:30am, Del Mar Community Building, 225 9th St.

Parks and Recreation Committee. October 11, 2017, 4:45 PM-5:45 PM @ Del Mar Council Chambers at Southfair

DM Library Adults/Teens. Art Instruction. With local artist, Sandra Dodd. All supplies provided. Wednesday, October 11, 3:30pm. (2nd Wednesday of the month.)

DM Community Connections - Flu Shot Clinic. Thursday, October 12, 9am, Del Mar Community Building, 225 9th St

DM Foundation - Young Del Mar: Spooktacular Beach Bonfire. Fri, Oct 13, 5:30-8:00pm Powerhouse Park. Registration required

DM Community Connections - Board of Directors Meeting. Saturday, October 14, 9am, Del Mar Community Building, 225 9th St

DM Library Adults/Teens. Meditation: a tool to balance your life. With Dave Frankel. Saturday, October 14, 10:30am.

City Council Meeting. October 16, 2017, 6:00 PM-9:00 PM @ City Council Chambers

Traffic and Parking Advisory Committee. October 17, 2017, 5:00 PM-7:00 PM @ Del Mar Council Chambers at Southfair

DM Community Connections - Tuesday Lunch Connections. Tuesday, October 17, noon to 1:30 pm, Del Mar Community Building, 225 9th St.

DM Historical Society. Tuesday, October 17, 5:00 pm; conference room at 225 9th Street. The public is encouraged to attend.

San Dieguito Lagoon Committee. October 18, 2017, 6:00 PM-8:00 PM @ Del Mar Library

DM Library Adults/Teens. Teen/Adult Activity. Wednesday, October 18 & 25, 3:30pm.

Sustainability Advisory Board. October 19, 2017, 7:30 AM-9:30 AM @ Del Mar Council Chambers at Southfair

Quarterly Special City Council Meeting. October 23, 2017, 6:00 PM-9:00 PM @ Del Mar Council Chambers at Southfair

Friends of the San Dieguito River Valley meeting Monday, October, 23. At the temporary city offices off JDB. 7:00 pm.

Business Support Advisory Committee. October 24, 2017, 9:00 AM-11:00 AM @ Del Mar Council Chambers at Southfair

Finance Committee. October 24, 2017, 4:30 PM-6:15 PM @ Del Mar Council Chambers at Southfair

Design Review Board. October 25, 2017, 6:00 PM-10:00 PM @ Del Mar Council Chambers at Southfair

DM Foundation - Special Events: Halloween Dog Parade. Sun, Oct 29, 3:30-4:30pm Shores Park 225 9th Street

DM Community Connections - ROMEO Men's Lunch. Tuesday, October 24, Noon, Sbicca Bistro

DM Community Connections - Monday Explorers excursion to San Elijo Lagoon. Monday, October 30, 10am, Del Mar Community Building, 225 9th St.

VISIT THE SANDPIPER ONLINE!



www.delmarsandpiper.org

SANDPIPER

DEL MAR'S COMMUNITY JOURNAL
Box 2177, Del Mar, CA 92014

DATED MATERIAL

ACADEMIC ABROAD

Not That Different

Faith Reineck | La Amatista | UC Santa Barbara Senior

On the surface, Del Mar and Hong Kong seem like completely different worlds. Although English is widely spoken in both, the former evokes images of a relaxed beachside lifestyle, while the latter evokes images of a chaotic mass of skyscrapers and people. There is validity in each of these notions, but I'm here to tell you why moving to Hong Kong hasn't been as much of a culture shock as I expected.

1. Cali - Mex

First and most important, Hong Kong has Mexican food. No, it's not Roberto's, but the Cali-Mex chain is found throughout the city, and offers a Chipotle-style build-your-own-burrito or bowl. Additionally, there are sit-down Mexican food restaurants such as Mexus, featuring a portrait of Donald Trump with a mustache and sombrero.

2. Hiking

Many people don't realize that Hong Kong is more than buildings. A two hour hike from Kennedy Town will get you to Victoria Peak, the famous vantage point with a stunning panorama of the city. On the south side of the island is Dragon's Back, a hike affording scenic views of the sub-tropical landscape and ocean. A quick bus or MTR ride will also take you from the main island to the New Territories, a less populated area with hikes up to 15km (9.5 miles). As someone who grew up doing the Torrey Pines hike on a weekly basis, hiking in Hong Kong is a surprisingly adequate replacement.

3. Beach

Hong Kong has beaches that rival those in California, with Repulse Bay, Clearwater Bay, and Stanley among the most popular. Beaches get very crowded on weekends and holidays, but the white sand and calm water are worth it. The calm seaside areas may even

make you feel like you're in the South of France, with restaurants like St. Barts in Clearwater adding some French charm. The occasional swell even allows for surfers to take their long boards to Big Wave Bay, although surfers seeking more of a thrill might take a two hour flight to Hainan Island in China, or Okinawa in Japan. The world class waves of Indonesia can easily be reached with a cheap ticket and a five-hour flight.

4. Yoga

Yogis rejoice! Yoga is huge in Hong Kong, with the city home to Lululemon's main Asia office. Aside from studios such as the popular chain Pure Yoga, there are frequently free yoga events in parks and the previously mentioned beaches. With the city's humidity, doing yoga outside over summer feels just like a Hot Yoga class at CorePower!

5. Hollywood / Disneyland

Between Hollywood references and Disneyland, the Southern California cultural influence has clearly reached Hong Kong. Hollywood Road, leading from Sheung Wan into Central Hong Kong, is lined with antique shops and galleries. Across the bay in Kowloon, there is an Avenue of Stars, modeled after the one in Hollywood, featuring Jackie Chan and Bruce Lee among other Asian celebrities. Disneyland is a quick MTR trip away on Lantau Island, decorating for Halloween and Christmas just like the one in Anaheim.

If you look at each number of this list, you might think you were reading a list of things to do in California. While I've managed to find my dose of California in Hong Kong, I also recognize the importance of experiencing the local culture. By living in Hong Kong, I get the chance to not only continue my favorite activities from home, but also to indulge in world class dim sum and pick up some Cantonese phrases along the way. Anyone who has the chance to study, visit, or work in this unique Special Administrative Region (lovingly referred to as the SAR), go and know that you will still be able to bring a slice of California with you! ■