

Masks are a Must with C-19

DEL MAR'S COMMUNITY MONTHLY  
NEWS • FEATURES • OPINION  
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# SANDPIPER

 FARMERS MARKET NOW OPEN  
Leslie Robson | 13th Street



Stuart Fish and Rita Meier, DMFM board members, and Fabian Huertas, market manager, modeling new face masks.  
Photo Kelly Post.

The City of Del Mar granted permission for the Del Mar Farmers Market to reopen after two months of temporary closure due to the COVID-19 preventive protocols. Saturday, May 9, was the beginning of a new chapter for the market under San Diego County and municipal guidelines.

Even with meticulous planning, there was some low level

anxiety about how all the new rules would play out with vendors and shoppers alike. While parks were still closed, there was a steady stream of guests seemingly looking for a new venue of activity of some sort, and the farmers were definitely happy to be considered essential and be back selling their produce and getting caught up with their longtime customers. The prepared food vendors provided take-away of their usual fare, and one of the vendors successfully pivoted from the sale of yoga togs to selling fabric face masks of all sizes and styles.

To control the numbers of shoppers, there is currently only one entrance, from the garage, where shoppers are encouraged to sanitize their hands, asked to don masks and

*continued on page 2*



Masks are a Must.  
Photo lower right Kelly Post. The others Christina Phillips.

Thank you for wearing a mask in public!



## LOCAL GOVERNMENT WORKS

A “drain the swamp” approach to government has its fans, even now, but there’s nothing like a pandemic to itemize the price we pay for weak leadership in government and the hollowing-out of core government operations. And there’s nothing like a pandemic to underscore the benefits of competent governmental leadership supported by robust scientific, administrative, and regulatory services—in fact, a bureaucracy—with deep expertise and experience to help us steer a steady course through this crisis. We use the word “bureaucracy” deliberately: we hear it mostly as a derogatory epithet, but at its best, as Merriam Webster tells us, it is “government characterized by specialization of functions, adherence to fixed rules, and a hierarchy of authority.”

For a growing majority of Americans, it has become clear that we suffer real harm from rambling, stream-of-consciousness-style, factually-detached leadership. It has become painfully clear, at the national level, that the Trump Administration’s 3+ years of devaluation of expertise and hollowing-out of key agencies and functions has come with a high price tag. It turns out that “deconstruction of the

administrative state,” Steve Bannon’s rallying cry against a perceived evil “deep state,” is in fact destructive to our collective good.

For a large majority of Californians, it has become crystal clear that we benefit from having a governor whose high-energy leadership is rooted in a deep understanding of key issues ranging from science and public health to our state’s economy.

Locally, we have seen our new City Manager work collaboratively with our City Council, with neighboring jurisdictions, and with the community to make emergency decisions to protect our community, responding nimbly to rapidly evolving conditions. And her leadership is supported by the “best and brightest” staff that Del Mar attracts even though we are quite demanding as a community: public works, firefighters, lifeguards, planners, and more. We especially salute them now, as their work for us comes at greater risk.

We’re going to need expert governance and leadership to get us through this public health and economic crisis. Good governance is not accidental; it flows from a citizenry that is engaged, informed, and committed to strong values. And it’s an outcome worthy of our best collective effort. Government, as it turns out, is deadly relevant. □



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### FROM FARMERS MARKET *page 1*

read the current guidelines. The sellers’ canopies line either side of the parking lot, with plenty of room for shoppers to keep six foot distancing in the middle. Umbrellas and canopies provide shade, but there are no tables and chairs to encourage lingering and eating. The usual queue for fish is marked off at six-foot intervals. Vendors are wearing masks and gloves and attempting to complete no-touch transactions. There are several sanitizing stations located around the market.

The reception by the public to the reopened farmers market has been absolutely and surprisingly gratifying. It shows just how much people have wanted to get outside to share in some communal activity. The City of Del Mar can take pride in creating a beautiful venue for people to enjoy at the new Civic Center. The Del Mar Farmers Market is happily back serving the community.

The Del Mar Farmers Market operates every Saturday, 1:00 to 4:00 PM, 1050 Camino Del Mar.

See more information at [delmarfarmersmarket.org](http://delmarfarmersmarket.org). □

## 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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[editor@delmarsandpiper.org](mailto:editor@delmarsandpiper.org)



# UNMASKED

Don Mosier, MD, PhD | Rimini Road

# CREST CANYON REPIPES

Jeff Barnouw | Amphitheatre Drive

**W**earing a face mask to prevent the spread of the coronavirus when you are less than 6 feet from someone not in your family is a uniform recommendation of health professionals. It is also important for the reopening of essential retail establishments, but enforcement of the mask rule by retail employees has had unfortunate consequences including being shot to death and suffering a broken arm (reported in the New York Times, May 16th edition). Freedom to spread a deadly virus (or expose yourself and your family to the disease) is a right, just like your right to carry a gun? Public health recommendations are now a political issue instead of good advice that should benefit all of us? What gives and what's happening in Del Mar?

Most visitors to Del Mar are not wearing masks even though our beach entrances are crowded and few of our sidewalks are wider than 5 feet. Patrons without masks are picking up takeout food from our local restaurants. Most but not all restaurant employees are wearing masks, but few seem willing to ask their customers to mask up or leave. It is both unfair and potentially dangerous to ask our local employees to be the mask enforcers of last resort. The longer we let the virus spread in our community, the more personal and financial impacts will be prolonged. Los Angeles has issued an order requiring everyone outside to wear a mask. We may need a similar local order to keep us all safe and make sure that everyone understands the rules.

I have no sympathy for the argument that some are enlightened, independent citizens who are free to ignore "government regulations." I am reminded of similar arguments about smoking in public or wearing motorcycle helmets. I am free to harm myself and I'm not hurting anyone else, was the refrain. Except that second-hand smoke had lethal consequences and riding helmetless kept the transplant surgeons happy but drove up insurance costs for everyone else. Going without a mask at this time is not a personal or political statement, it is risky behavior that threatens all of us. If we really want to reopen retail establishments, wear a mask and take the responsibility away from the employees and put it where it belongs, with you!

Be like those masked strangers at the Farmer's Market!! □

**T**he installation of 4000 feet of reinforced concrete pipe (RCP) as a permanent replacement of the failed storm drain system in Crest Canyon is underway. This work is expected to be completed by Fall 2020. A door-hanger 'Construction Notice' on this progress added, "For the safety of the community and to expedite the repairs, the Crest Canyon Park trails will have to remain closed and fenced off for the duration of the project."

Traffic will be controlled on Racetrack View Drive during the installation of new pipe crossing under that road, "reduced to one-lane traffic access during work hours with flagmen on site, for approximately a couple of months."

The door-hanger also said "Revegetation and trail restoration will follow [the completion in Fall 2020]". But both the City of San Diego (Alec Phillipp, City Public Information Officer) and Claudia Mejia, Community Outreach Representative consulting with Burtech Pipeline and liaison to the City, have recently announced that "the City has hired DUDEK [Environmental Planners, Scientists and Engineers] and they will be preparing a restoration plan in coordination with the City's Biologist and Park and Recreation staff. The plan is to post the restoration plan on the project's website for the public to review and submit comments on...by late June." □



## COVID CHRONICLES

**H**istory is what we remember - Spanish Flu, Bird Flu, and now the COVID-19 virus. We recall what we record. Our writings and photos help us make sense of what is happening while sending guidance for the next generation. In dramatic times, reflection on what has come before helps to guide us as we encounter similar human dramas.

It is time to reflect upon and record your experiences. Here are some ideas to inspire your writing:

- Describe how the pandemic is affecting you and/or your family?
- What "temporary" lifestyle changes will become permanent?
- What new hobbies have you taken up, or, restarted?
- Describe your greatest challenge as a result of the "stay at home" requirement?

Please send us your reflections. The Del Mar Historical Society will chronicle our times and thus inform another generation in 2120:

Snail-mail to DMHS, 225 9th St, Del Mar, CA 92014, or email to [info@delmarhistoricalsociety.org](mailto:info@delmarhistoricalsociety.org) □



**PROTECT YOURSELF.  
PROTECT OTHERS.**



JUNE 2020 Sandra Hoyle DMF President

Over the past two months, the Del Mar Foundation Board has been focusing on supporting other Del Mar nonprofit organizations and businesses through grants, but please know that promoting civic pride and cohesiveness as part of our mission is critical during this stressful time. There are a few phrases we've been inundated with over the past two months: "unprecedented times," "the new normal," "crisis," and "virtual." While these expressions are fitting for our current state of affairs, their overuse has made them feel trite and irritating.

On the "Get Inspired" page of our website, [www.delmarfoundation.org](http://www.delmarfoundation.org), you will notice we have been continuously updating unique programs that will inspire and inform. From the comfort of your home, you can enjoy symphony performances, visit an aquarium or an art museum, or learn a new language! Our First Thursdays concert programs have transformed to a virtual version with a program and performances to watch. On May 7th we hosted an online workshop in honor of National Children's Mental Health Awareness Day that included a presentation designed to inspire children by creating art and showing gratitude. The Foundation also hosted its first virtual DMF Talks. In partnership with the Lagoon Committee and moderated by Dr. Ellen Breen, UCSD economist Dr. Richard Carson gave a presentation on "Coastal Wetlands Reduce Property Damage During Tropical Cyclones." We also hosted a Community Night "In" (as opposed to our Community Night "Out") for Del Mar residents, neighbors and friends to gather together as contestants on a virtual game show playing games including The Price is Right, Wheel of Fortune, Family Feud, and Jeopardy.

For the past 38 plus years, the Del Mar Foundation has filled a crucial role as the community's oldest nonprofit sponsoring a wide range of programs and events, grants and managing endowment funds to benefit Del Mar and the San Dieguito Lagoon. We appreciate you! It's because of your trust and loyalty that we are in such a strong position to help our community. We are monitoring city, county, and state advisories pertaining to public gatherings. Current events on our calendar are on hold until we have further information from the City of Del Mar. While it's our hope to move forward with in-person events, the well-being of our community is of primary importance. We will continue to offer as many "virtual" events and experiences as possible. As we consider the best ways to support our friends and neighbors, please feel free to contact us with suggestion or ideas at [info@delmarfoundation.org](mailto:info@delmarfoundation.org).



## ROVING TEEN REPORTER

Social Media Activism

Dhathry Doppalapudi | Torrey Pines High School Senior

On February 23, Ahmaud Arbery, an unarmed black man, was shot and killed while he was jogging in a Georgia suburb. His killers were a white father-son duo that followed Arbery in their truck for several minutes before shooting him. They were not arrested until May, over two months after murdering Arbery. The arrests came only after a graphic video of Arbery's shooting, one that the police have had since February, was leaked and caused widespread outrage and pressure on the police. Along with celebrities, artists, and politicians, many teenagers went to social media to express their intense anger and grief about Arbery's death and the lack of arrests, demonstrating how social media has become a powerful tool in social activism.

Mirabel, a sophomore at Torrey Pines High School, first learned about Arbery's death on Twitter in early May, when the video was leaked. "I started to see a lot of social media stuff about it and I think it was cool to see a lot of people taking interest in it," she said. "Even my friends at school were posting about it on Instagram."

Torrey Pines senior Bea says she first found out about Ahmaud Arbery after seeing the video of his death on civil rights activist Shaun King's Instagram account. "I don't usually get my news from social media because I don't always know how accurate it is, but this was all over social media and which kind of forced me to pay attention to it, which is good," she said.

Social media platforms such as Instagram, Twitter, Snapchat, and TikTok allow users to post about news that matters to them and likely matters to their friends and followers as well. "It's a lot easier to hear about stuff on social media because people can spread and share stories and bring attention to these things very quickly," Mirabel said.

Bea agreed. "If it hadn't been for the fact that that video had just exploded and gone viral, I don't even know if the father and son who shot Ahmaud would have ever been arrested," she said. "It also opened a lot of people's eyes, especially teenagers, to the amount of racially charged violence there is in this country."

There is no doubt that the typical teenager spends a lot of time on social media. While this is often perceived as a bad thing, she actually learns a lot by being active on these platforms, Mirabel said. "One of the good things about social media is that we can find a community of people who care about these things as much as we do and who can teach us things, and I think that's very powerful."

Right now is an important time in the world and for teenagers, it's an important time in our own lives. →



# FAIR BROKE!?

Betty Wheeler | Seaview Ave.



**Del Mar Community Connections**  
Supporting and Serving Seniors

**W**ith a steady stream of event cancellations, most notably the County Fair, which generates \$12 million in net profit, the 22nd District Agricultural District (22nd DAA) is in financial crisis. The 22nd DAA operates the state-owned Fairgrounds on a self-funded basis, but its revenue has taken a huge hit from the pandemic. On April 27, it requested \$20 million in critical emergency funding from the State. The request to the State noted that, with “less than \$5 million cash in the bank,” the 22nd DAA “will no longer be able to pay its operating expenses or its State civil service employees after May 31st without this critical emergency assistance.”

The State has since announced a \$40 million fund to be distributed to the many fairgrounds in California, but as of press time, the amount for the 22nd DAA, which operates the largest fair in the state, is unknown. Although the 22nd DAA reduced its temporary and seasonal workforce in response to the COVID-19 crisis, it still has 156 full-time civil service employees, at an average monthly cost of \$1.68 million. It also has \$74.3 million in debt, including for water quality improvements and renovation of the satellite wagering facility into a concert venue. The request mentions restricted funds and “reserves” without detail, other than describing the reserves as “devastated.”

Some 90% of the 22nd DAA’s \$87 million in annual revenue comes from events, including horse racing, festivals, and trade and consumer shows, in addition to the Fair. When and under what conditions these types of events and mass gatherings can resume is still unknown. While Santa Anita Park resumed horse racing on May 15, with no public in attendance, plans for the Del Mar Thoroughbred Club (DMTC) are not yet announced, nor is it clear how racing without public attendance would impact the budgets of DMTC or the 22nd DAA.

In the meantime, the 22nd DAA is exploring a proposal to provide temporary and transitional living space, along with medical screening and meals, for homeless persons and families, including veterans. Without kitchens in the individual units, and because of the temporary nature of housing, these would likely not count toward Del Mar’s state-mandated housing numbers, but with a proposal for an 80-1500 person site, this proposal could nonetheless bring valuable housing and related services to Del Mar. In addition, 22nd DAA and City of Del Mar representatives continue to discuss affordable housing opportunities. □

Our social media is the way that we stay connected to each other while being physically isolated. But not only does it help us keep in touch with our friends, it’s a powerful way for us teenagers to increase our political awareness and become more outspoken about the issues that we care about. □

## JUNE 2020

Ashley Simpkins,  
Program Director

### Update on pandemic delivery services

DMCC’s mission is to support and serve Del Mar seniors so that they may age independently at home. In the midst of a public health crisis in which it is important to stay at home (especially for the seniors!), that meant rapidly shifting our operations to establish a free delivery service for groceries and donated essential supplies.

Deliveries began in earnest near the end of March. In less than two months, DMCC has supported over 50 senior Del Mar households with 126 grocery deliveries and 55 essential supply deliveries (toilet paper, disinfectants, face masks, etc).

People who use the service provide to us their grocery lists and are billed for their own groceries, but pay no delivery fee. The essential supplies are totally free. We are able to provide this service because of a generous community of neighbors and a partnership with the Del Mar Foundation.

All 65+ residents of 92014 qualify to receive DMCC pandemic delivery services. To request these services, please visit [dmcc.cc/covid19](http://dmcc.cc/covid19) or call (858) 792-7565.

### Volunteer of the Month

DMCC’s Volunteer of the Month for June 2020 is Jenny Meiselman, hardworking member of three DMCC committees: Health and Wellness committee, Sunday Salon committee, and Outreach committee. Thanks for your contributions, Jenny!

DMCC programs and services depend on our incredible volunteers! To learn more about Jenny or volunteering on a DMCC committee, visit [dmcc.cc/volunteerofthemoth](http://dmcc.cc/volunteerofthemoth).

**For more information...** or to join our email list:

Please visit our website at [dmcc.cc](http://dmcc.cc), or contact the DMCC office at (858) 792-7565 or [dmcc@dmcc.cc](mailto:dmcc@dmcc.cc).



*Delivery Driver Amanda with the DMCC Foxy Flyer van, about to make a grocery drop*



# LOCKDOWN LESSONS

Sheila Sharpe, Ph.D. | 15th Street

This can't be real, I thought, walking down Del Mar's ghostly streets during the first month of Lockdown. Sight of an occasional masked figure and the cheerful blue sky above made the scene seem more creepily surreal. Like many people, denial was one of my early reactions to the Coronavirus Pandemic. At the same time, the psychologist/writer side of me aimed to turn an out-of-control crisis into a harmless sci-fi fantasy—the intrepid humanoids, armed with paper masks, disinfectant, and fear, battle and defeat an invisible lethal invader.

But when I review the emotional roller-coaster of the past two months: the early scrambling for supplies to the blues and blahs and loneliness of Lockdown to the angry protests against isolation, we are now up against a mutating virus along with another mutation of fear—Will this never end?

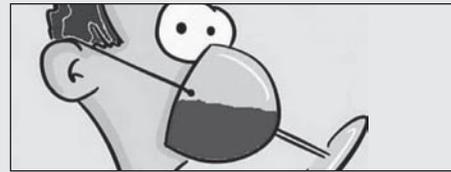
As the pandemic swept down the coast and the numbers of the sick and dead mounted, the terror of catching COVID-19 gave us insomnia, nightmares, body aches, racing hearts, along with hoarding, cleaning, and hand-washing compulsions. We may have calmed down, but keep in mind that every panicky, crazy way you're feeling is normal. Our lives are in constant danger, and the economic crisis worsens. Taking short breaks from these realities helps maintain sanity. Therapists like me advise minimizing exposure to the media's bad news. Position yourself in the mid-zone between Catastrophic Trumpian Denial and Cassandra's Voice of Doom.

Establishing a daily structure that includes safe methods for getting food and other supplies is necessary to feel fundamentally secure. Dr. Felise Levine recommends dancing, meditation, yoga, breathing, and stretching exercises for managing anxiety.

Lockdown has threatened our basic needs to feel in control, effective, and to have meaningful connections with people. Rising to the challenge, Del Martians have found many ways to stay in charge of their lives, be productive, and help others. DMCC ensures that those in need get groceries and other essentials. My neighbors make fetching masks, bake bread for others, take on-line courses, write creatively, and sing together on Zoom.

## Lockdown Burnout

Near the end of the second month of isolation, many friends, family members, and former clients have expressed feeling frustrated, bored, depressed, and lonely. Palinkas' studies show that people manage the first half of being confined with active coping, but at the perceived half-way point their resolve weakens. This kind of let-down has now set in, fueled by warnings of a resurgence of COVID-19 this fall with no rescue from a vaccine anytime soon. →



## WOE WHOA

Jeffrey Barnouw | Amphitheatre Drive

If and when our world should wane,  
I'll not be won to wine.  
Whim 'n' whine have worn me wan,  
But one must wean to win.

Zoom fatigue plagues us. Deciphering expressions on-screen is difficult and feeling more alone can result. It's helpful to give up the wish of making the same kind of connection as was possible in person. While we've lost the way things were, zooming gives us a visual way to sustain our friendships, have group meetings, family dinners, and celebrate occasions.

Boredom also has upsides. Time slows down. You're convinced two months have passed, but it's really only been one. You're younger than you think. And you are safe, unlike the unmasked rule-breakers out there eating, drinking, waving flags, and infecting each other. Practice the lost art of delayed gratification, bearing in mind that quarantined, cautious introverts are the most likely to inherit this earth.

Lockdown has profoundly intensified our fears of feeling and being alone, a condition already considered an epidemic in the US. Research indicates that loneliness is more dangerous to health than smoking or obesity and causes ruinous stress and anxiety. Emotional health requires feeling connected, now more difficult to achieve, especially for those who live alone, are disabled, or strained financially. In our town, dedicated DMCC volunteers are contacting isolated seniors to provide support in any way possible.

To combat loneliness, Levine suggests doing something kind for someone daily and recognizing what you're grateful for, like living in our beautiful town. People are calling friends and relatives more frequently, and I see couples making efforts to overcome their intimacy blocks and develop new ways to connect, like cooking together. A creative pair I know makes funny short films about domestic trials, one aptly called "When Life Gives You Lemons. Forget lemonade, make ambrosia." And remember to hope, advises plague maestro Stephen King—"Hope is a good thing, maybe the best of things, and no good thing ever dies." ■



## BELT TIGHTENING

City forecasts revenue loss of \$5.5 million for next fiscal year.

Tom McGreal | Stratford Court

The City held a Budget Workshop on May 16th to determine the impact of COVID-19 on City finances in Fiscal Year 2021, which begins July 1, 2020. The workshop focused on forecasting the potential impact on revenues, reaching agreement on what essential government services entail, identifying essential Capital projects and Special projects and providing feedback to the City staff on the use of the General Fund Reserves.

The City Council reviewed several revenue scenarios that projected differing levels and timing of economic recovery for the Fairgrounds, hotels, restaurants and retail businesses. These businesses directly impact the amount of Sales Tax collected, and the hotels operations determine the amount of Transient Occupancy Tax (TOT). As noted in the Staff Report the TOT represents 17% of City revenues, and Sales Tax represents 13%. Although the Governor has begun to reopen certain types of businesses, the Finance Committee and the City Council recommended taking a conservative outlook for the economic recovery that resulted in a projected revenue loss of \$5.5 million for the fiscal year beginning on July 1, 2020. This includes a loss of \$4 million in General Fund revenues (or 22% of the adopted budget) and \$1.5 million in Measure Q revenues (or roughly 50% of budgeted Measure Q revenues).

The Workshop also defined three tiers of governmental services including Essential services (those legally required and critical to public health and safety), important services to operations and community values, and non-essential services (those that could be deferred). This was a good discussion that will provide guidance to the City Manager in developing a revised spending plan for fiscal year 2021.

Council also reviewed a list of Capital projects and Special projects to identify which must be completed in fiscal year 2021 and which projects can be deferred. The result is a limited list of essential projects that must also be included in the revised spending plan for the coming year. Council decided to place the Measure Q projects (undergrounding and Shores Park development) temporarily on hold.

Finally, Council reviewed the General Fund reserves, which are projected to total approximately \$5 million as of June 30, 2020. This resulted in a prioritization of the reserve accounts that identifies which reserves might be used in the event of a budget deficit. Council noted that the Finance Committee met on May 12th and recommended that the City adopt an approach that →

## IN BRIEF



## DMF ZOOM TALKS

The Del Mar Foundation and the Lagoon Committee presented the DMFTalk: Our Lagoon: What is it Worth? via Zoom live by Dr. Richard Carson with moderator Ellen Breen, Chair of the Lagoon Committee. Dr. Carson spoke to a Zoom audience about the economic value of lagoons, focusing on the East Coast, and answered questions from the audience. Dr. Carson, a Distinguished Professor of Economics at the University of California, San Diego, received his Ph.D. from UC Berkeley in 1985 and served as past President of the Association of Environmental and Resource Economists. Dr. Breen, a scientist with a Ph.D. in Biochemistry from the University of Vermont, is a member of the University of California, San Diego's Department of Medicine. You can view the DMFTalk at [delmarfoundation.org](http://delmarfoundation.org). □



### Hidden Critters

*Keep a look out for surprising neighbors, some shown here, living along your walkabout paths.*

Photo Julie Maxey-Allison

protects the General Fund reserves at the current levels to ensure that the City has the needed financial resilience in the event that the COVID-19 crisis has a slower recovery time frame.

The City staff is now finalizing a revised spending plan for fiscal 2021 based upon this new revenue forecast and City Council direction from the Workshop. The next step takes place on June 9th when the staff presents the revised budget to the Finance Committee followed by the review and adoption of a new fiscal 2021 budget at the June 16th City Council meeting. □

# HOUSING HOW?

Ann Gardner | Via Latina



*The second floor of Stratford Square was once residential. Painting Del Mar Corner by Darrell Swenson.*

**H**ow and where to provide more housing, including more affordable housing, in Del Mar? Those questions were answered by almost 300 Del Mar residents and property owners in the City’s Housing Element Community Survey released on March 16 and extended to April 20. Participants were asked to indicate their preferences for achieving three housing goals: preservation of existing housing stock, production of housing stock, and community assistance programs. According to the May 4th staff report to City Council, survey results indicate a preference for:

1. Fee reduction with the City reducing/subsidizing Planning Department fees related to project with an affordable housing component.
2. Allowing residential development in the Downtown Village AND incentivizing the development of Accessory Dwelling Units (ADUs).
3. Respondents favored, by a wide margin, community

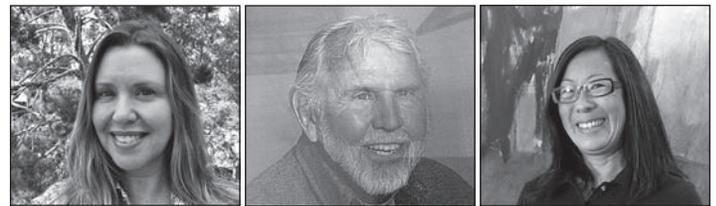
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# COMMUNITY PLAN

## Housing Update

Jill Gartman | Pine Needles Drive

**A**s the Sixth Cycle (2021-2029) Housing Element Citizens’ Task Force is preparing its “concluding statement” to City Council we asked the three members of its subcommittee assigned Communication and Community Outreach, Jill Gartman, Bud Emerson and Julie Kawasaki, to discuss their work. The Committee is one of the few Advisory Committees continuing to meet during the COVID-19 shutdown.



*Jill Gartman, Bud Emerson, Julie Kawasaki.*

*How did you go about achieving the Council’s goal to educate and encourage participation in the Housing Element Update?*

In the beginning we provided feedback for the citywide housing survey. Unfortunately, it was launched as COVID-19 stay-at-home orders were implemented and people were focused on their health and well being. The City considered participation “good” after the deadline was extended, but I think some task force members hoped for more respondents. Unfortunately, a second workshop scheduled for April 20th had to be canceled due to COVID-19. The task force members have reached out by communicating directly with residents, and city staff produced and sent out two mailers plus notices via eblast to encourage participation in the survey and workshop. It’s important our community participate in the process of creating the Housing Element because it may propose significant changes to areas of our small city.

*Was some outreach more effective than others? What kind of information did you get?*

The housing workshop held at the end of February was relatively well attended, and city staff felt they got some really good feedback. Survey results will also be factor in determining the Sixth Cycle Housing plan. What is clear to us by speaking with lots of residents over the last few months is people feel strongly that with over 350 acres of land at the fairgrounds this is an excellent opportunity for a collaborative affordable housing project between the City of Del Mar and the 22nd District Agriculture Association: providing fairground employees an affordable place to live close to work, while helping Del Mar achieve some

*continued on page 9*

## Housing EIR Input Needed

As we go to press the City is planning to release a Draft Program Environmental Impact Report that examines the possible environmental impact of an update to Del Mar's housing plan known as the Sixth Cycle (2021-2029) Housing Element. The Draft looks at the impact of policies to add additional housing in the City, not specific projects such as allowing housing units in commercial areas and encouraging the building of Accessory Dwelling units. The Draft will be open to public comment for 60 days and the Ad-Hoc Citizens Advisory Committee which provided community input to the Draft is urging residents to read the Draft and provide comments. "We think community participation is vital to the success of our Housing Element achieving progress on our housing goals," the Task Force said. ■

### FROM HOUSING HOW *page 8*

Assistance for seniors that allow older residents to age-in-place and have access to resources for their well-being. There was less support for military veterans, homeless, and in-need students.

4. North Commercial (NC) and Village Center areas were the most desired locations for future housing. The NC area is located at the intersection of Jimmy Durante Blvd. and San Dieguito Drive near the Fairgrounds. The area is relatively flat and comprised of mixed commercial uses. The Village Center is described as containing a diversity of land uses and physical quality. Retail is separated into 1) the original commercial center at the southwest corner of Camino del Mar and 15th St. and the Plaza at the northeast corner with scattered restaurants and specialty shops between 10th and 13th streets along Camino del Mar.

5. Most favored incentives out of eight listed to develop more housing were expedited building permits, a streamlined design review process and fee reductions. Least favored were additional height allowances and reduced setbacks.

The Survey was one of the opportunities residents had to participate in the Sixth Cycle Housing Element planning process before COVID-19 impacted a second public workshop and the Citizens' Task Force meetings. The Housing Element is mandated by the State to provide programs and policies to provide more housing for all income levels. Input from the February 29 workshop, early meetings of the Task Force and the Survey have contributed input from residents on how to meet this requirement. The Task Force assigned to represent the community will discuss their concluding report at the June 15 City Council meeting, available via teleconference. All input will be considered by City Council as they prepare a Draft Program EIR that will review the environment impact of proposed changes in City policies, later this month when the Draft will be released for a 60-day public review. ■

## North Commercial Zone Update

The Final EIR for a zoning change to allow additional residential units in the North Commercial and Professional Commercial zones is expected to go to the Planning Commission this month for review and approval. Current language allows only one residential unit. The change would allow up to 20 housing units per acre with NO change in current Floor Area Ratio (FAR) and heights limits. Check the City website calendar to confirm the July hearing date. ■



*Hidden Critters. Photo Julie Maxey-Allison.*

### FROM COMMUNITY PLAN *page 8*

of its housing goals. We hope Governor Newsom, who appoints the fairground's board members, will get behind such a project given the housing crisis and the vacant land available there compared to the only two square miles of mostly developed land in the City of Del Mar.

*Did you feel as if you got enough information out to residents for them to understand and continue to participate in the Housing Element planning process?*

Yes, although hindered by the COVID-19 shut down, we think residents can make up with robust participation in the Housing Element's Draft Environmental Review process that looks at the environmental impact of the proposed ideas on how to provide more housing by 2029, and by keeping in touch with our city council and planning commission members in the coming months. Access their meeting agendas from the City's homepage so you can contribute via email before their meetings. We all hope for a Housing Element that our community supports and the best way for that to happen is for residents to stay involved, read the Draft Project EIR slated for imminent release on the City's homepage and provide feedback. We think that community participation and "buy-in" is vital to the success of our Housing Element achieving progress on the goals to be set forth in the approved 6th Cycle Housing Element. ■



## CJ'S JOB

Interview with City Manager CJ Johnson

Don Mosier | Rimini Road

*This interview was conducted on May 13th, the three-month anniversary of CJ beginning as City Manager. The city response to the COVID-19 pandemic began on March 14th which quickly changed the nature of CJ's job.*



*Courtesy Christa Johnson*

**Sandpiper (SP):** How are you and your family doing during the lockdown?

**CJ:** Well! We are healthy. My adult son and my 16-year old daughter are at home every day, and my husband continues to go to his job. I get to have Zoom meetings with my three sisters each week.

**SP:** How often do you work from home?

**CJ:** About one day a week during this time when everyone is encouraged to telework. But I enjoy the commute from Del Mar to home. Time to relax after a long day at work and listen to a good audiobook.

**SP:** No one anticipated the COVID-19 pandemic when you started. How are you adjusting?

**CJ:** 90% of my time has been spent on the COVID-19 response; life has changed since March 14th; two rounds of budget reductions and delayed council priorities. No opportunity to meet face-to-face with Del Mar residents. I'm still getting to know some of the staff. It's been challenging.

**SP:** How does your job in Del Mar differ from Laguna Beach?

*continued on page 12*

## NO FIELD OF DREAMS

School Design Update

John Gartman | Pine Needles Drive

**D**el Mar Union School District trustees voted last month to proceed with the new Heights' school design – demolition as early as late June. The unanimous vote approving the CEQA environmental review was without a single alteration of plans despite legitimate citizen and public agency concerns about fields, wildfire evacuation, traffic, impacts to the nature reserve, student compaction during the COVID-19 pandemic, or other issue. We predicted this months ago, once we discovered how much already had transpired, including over 300 pages of construction documents finalized down to the type and location of every tree and shrub and filed with the State Architect in February.

Play Outside's inaugural campaign was to save the magic of the "field of dreams" for the kids of today and tomorrow and for our community – following our guiding principles of honesty, transparency, accountability, and public service. We always agreed with our opponents on the goal of new buildings, but we parted ways on this: they wanted new buildings a few months earlier; we wanted new buildings and old magic forever.

I wish I could report some measure of success. The final numbers show otherwise. In their final CEQA document, the district openly confessed to trading 2.1 acres of fields, baseball, and playgrounds in a near-even exchange for more parking, a car queue, buildings, and decomposed granite paths/gathering areas.

The final numbers for both field size and blacktop ( ? recreational blacktop?) are, by our carefully checked measurements, significantly less than half of what exists in today's school. The field will be the district's smallest by 8,000 square feet and 40% smaller than the district average. Although the loss of fields and blacktop was a core issue in CEQA, the district did not reveal any numbers for them. Our numbers were front and center and unchallenged.

Even disconnected green space – which the district clung to throughout these last few months as the sole positive spin they could offer us from a play perspective – is now admitted to have dropped another 19,132 sf without explanation. We're now down to 108,692 sf from the 142,919 sf that the district promised in October in the Del Mar Times, according to the district's own numbers that include the entire "tot lot" area that is outside school gates.

Perhaps Play Outside and the multitude of community members who stood with us accomplished one good thing. DMUSD promised without reservation to sustain free public access of the new Heights' grounds outside the school day. We hope that sticks. ■



# BUSINESS BLUES

Interview with Zach Groban

Julie Maxey-Allison | 10th Street

*Zach Groban, owner of Rusty Del Mar Surf Shop, is also Chair of Del Mar's Business Support Advisory Committee. He was interviewed about the impacts of the COVID-19 epidemic on local businesses.*

**Sandpiper (SP):** Given the unprecedented circumstance of the COVID-19 virus, how is the Business Support Advisory Committee working within our new reality?

**ZG:** This has been a hard transition for everyone. It was like someone turned the light switch off on business and a great economy. The committee has tried to become the middle person along with the Del Mar Village Association to try and solve issues and implement new ideas. We faced issues such as tackling current code requirements to allow bigger signs and curbside pickup. We all have worked hard on plans for when things start to reopen. But we were already fighting an uphill battle, before the coronavirus, trying to make the commercial zone vital. We have codes and ordinances that need to be adjusted but are meeting resistance. We need redevelopment to attract new and interesting businesses. Hopefully the downtown can become a priority in the eyes of the residents and city to help invigorate our commercial zone.

**SP:** Rusty's Del Mar is open for "Take Out." How are you doing?

**ZG:** We have been lucky. We invested in creating an email list, a website, and a good social media presence. These tools have generated cash flow to pay for some overhead while we have been officially closed. Residents have been very supportive of us during this time adjusting to a new way to do business. We have been in town for over 30 years and people who couldn't visit Del Mar this year bought our tee shirts online.

**SP:** How are restaurants and other businesses managing?

**ZG:** With mixed results. Most have applied for the Paycheck Protection Program or disaster loans. Some restaurants are better set up for takeout and curbside than others. Some have found it not worth the expense of being open. We have already lost Prep Kitchen; the Bully's site project has stopped, and there is no restart date; and a few "for lease" signs are up.

**SP:** What do you anticipate for re-openings of shut down businesses?

**ZG:** We are hopeful and excited. The beach is now open. Some retail businesses can open soon. Most are scrambling to anticipate what the social distancing guidelines, cleaning, signage, and staff requirements are going to be. Customer safety and employee safety are concerning so we're →

## VIRTUAL VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

**D**o you want to be a Del Mar influencer with a Tweet, a Facebook post or through a Linked-in connection or a photo on Instagram? If you enjoy the hunt for information about Del Mar and have an inquiring mind, then this is an opportunity for you. If you like to create headlines and condense information, then we need your talents. The Sandpiper wants to reach Del Mar residents with easy and fast-to read-social media formats. The time commitment is no more than a few hours per week and you will have a colleague to work with you. No previous experience needed because a strategic social media consultant to help launch this effort is available. We seek to train two volunteers. You will report to the Managing Editor of the Sandpiper and participate in Editorial Board discussions.

If you are interested or have questions, contact: editor@delmarsandpiper.org

## IN BRIEF



### No Park-ing

As our beaches reopen with new rules, our parks, with the exception of the Shores Park, remain off limits. Meanwhile, at Seagrove Park there is work going on, funded in times past, to replace the old lights and wooden light poles with bollards, low to the ground walkway lights, now on order. Upon arrival they will be installed at Seagrove Park and Powerhouse Park. ■

asking everyone to wear a mask when you come to our stores.

**SP:** Given that San Diego County Fair and the Del Mar Turf Club races are canceled for summer 2020 what is the expectation for 2020 tourism in Del Mar?

**ZG:** Optimistic--but it could be bleak. Businesses are barely hanging on, trying to adapt. The commercial zone makes up over 50% of the city's general fund and we are expecting a \$130M loss in sales. The reality is we need customers in town and need them to spend money.

**SP:** What is the Committee planning to attract visitors to Del Mar in the near and far future?

**ZG:** That is a tough question. Nobody has any idea what social gatherings are going to look like for the near future. We are working with the DMVA and the city to allow businesses to use the sidewalks more, maybe some pop-up vendors, and promoting a safe Del Mar with precautions in place to keep people safe and healthy. ■



# HUNGER HELPING

## the Eco Way

Valérie Dufort-Roy | Klish Way

**T**he economic stress resulting from the pandemic has driven many to resort to food donations for meeting their nutritional needs. Feeding San Diego, a local non-profit organization, has been at the forefront of meeting this urgent necessity, both by continuing to supplement nutrition for thousands of San Diegans, and by providing meals to those in new found economic distress. Since the beginning of the lockdown, the organization has distributed an impressive 4.5 million meals, while demonstrating a remarkable exercise in adaptability.

On a regular day, one in six children and one in eight people suffer from hunger in San Diego. Feeding San Diego's approach to solving hunger is to rescue nutritious food, that would otherwise end up in the methane-generating landfill, and redistribute it to local charities. From groceries, restaurants and farms, rescued food is directly sent to local charities, mobile pantries, college distribution sites, military and veteran families.

The recent events have affected the demand and the access to food for the organization. It is estimated that hunger has increased by 50% in San Diego since mid-March, while local unemployment has risen by 30% (490,000 unemployed). In April, grocery store prices rose 2.6% nationally. Paradoxically, the ability for Feeding San Diego to rescue food has reduced by about 30% due to panic buying early on the pandemic and to disruptions in the food supply chain. The organization has reacted with purchasing 161 truckloads of food since mid-March, using \$5.5M in monetary donations to foot the bill. Knowing that in an entire typical year, the organization purchases 24 truckloads of food demonstrates the dramatic effect of the pandemic in its operations. Additionally, Feeding San Diego has become a beneficiary from the Federal Coronavirus Food Assistance Program aiming to avoid agricultural dumping due to supply chain disruptions. Four additional weekly truckloads of produce are expected.

Given that tourism is the third largest segment of San Diego's economy, we can expect for Feeding San Diego's efforts to continue for the foreseeable future. While they have masterfully adjusted their operations to meet the local needs, the success of their work is powered by strong community support. Consider making a donation in support of your fellow San Diegans! Equally important, let's also share information about solutions to hunger, including locations of community drive-thru food distribution points (<https://feedingsandiego.org/>). It is sobering to realize that so many recipients might never have suffered from hunger, until now. □

## FROM CJ'S JOB page 10

**CJ:** Less writing, more moving staff forward, different level of responsibility. I really enjoy running and exploring the beautiful neighborhoods during my lunch break. Even with the crisis, it's more fun to be in Del Mar!

**SP:** What's the most challenging decision you have made?

**CJ:** The beach closure issues with relentless pressure to re-open. Detailed local planning followed by San Diego and County ignoring the coastal cities in making decisions. Dog owners continue to be unhappy, but the beach is now open and most people are following the rules.

**SP:** How have you and staff adjusted to telephonic communication?

**CJ:** Working remotely is now possible after a short transition. Planning and Community Development has adapted to online communication, including Citizen Participation Program meetings. Council meetings work although public participation is more challenging, and I'm not sure how many people are listening.

**SP:** Any closing thoughts that you want to share with our community?

**CJ:** Even though responding to the pandemic and resulting budget crisis has been tough at times, being able to work with supportive City Councilmembers, City staff, and residents to overcome the challenges is satisfying. I know I'm going to continue to be happy here! □



*Hidden Critters. Photo Julie Maxey-Allison.*

# TRACK TROUBLE

## Rail relocation when?

Dwight Worden | Seaview Avenue

California Secretary of Transportation David Kim has created a task force to address two rail related concerns of importance to Del Mar: 1) bluff stability and rail safety 2) long-term relocation of the rail line to an inland location. This is a powerhouse group comprised of federal, state, regional, and local officials. The membership list is extensive, with Mayor Haviland and me serving as Del Mar representatives.

Two subgroups have been created: one, addressing the bluffs and funding issues, and a second addressing long-term relocation. Mayor Haviland and I serve on the long-term relocation subgroup. Some highlights so far:

- The full Task Force has met twice; our subgroup had its first meeting on May 14.
- There are funding sources available for near-term bluff stabilization and to update existing studies on long-term relocation. These funds come with deferral of other priorities. Funding estimated at \$3 billion for the Del Mar tunnel has yet to be identified.

The importance of the rail line has broad support:

- It is the 2nd busiest passenger rail line in the U.S.
- It is part of the national defense system (STRACNET).
- It supports roughly \$8 billion per year of Port of San Diego business.
- It supports important other freight service.
- Every rail freight car takes a semi-truck off the freeway system, reducing GHG and congestion, and limiting the need for expensive freeway expansion. Ditto passengers and their cars.

There is consensus on broad goals for the future:

- The rail system needs to go clean energy.
- Overhead electric lines are probably not the answer.
- Hydrogen cells and/or battery storage are more promising.
- Plans are underway to implement a net zero program on both the passenger and freight system by the early 2030s.
- The freight system needs to go “double stack” to accommodate future demand.
- Headways for passenger trains should be every 20 minutes and hopefully every 15 minutes.
- Extension of the rail system to the border is a long-term objective.
- A tunnel through Del Mar removing the rails →



# BOUQUET OF SCENTS

Linda Chisari | Crest Road

Even through my mask, my nose is able to assemble a huge bouquet of scents as I enjoy my morning walk with our dog Beau: The “Zephyrine Drouhin” rose that overhangs my back gate greets me as I venture out to the street; then, along the path through Crest Rim, White Sage with its resinous scent; Verbena “de la Mina,” sweetness personified; freshly mown grass along Crest, a rarity in dry Del Mar but so reminiscent of my lawn-mowing dad; Honeysuckle trailing through ivy, reminds me of childhood walks with my cousin, so many decades ago; Star Jasmine, a relative newcomer to my olfactory array, a sure sign of April; a pungent whiff of not-so-pleasant red tide (or so I’m told) wafting up Amphitheatre Drive from the beach below, deceptive in its ability to acridly camouflage the gorgeous luminescence in the waves after dark....maybe Mother Nature’s way of keeping people off the beach until it’s safer; the wonderful, spicy scent of Italian Jasmine, its tendrils weaving happily among the succulent branches of ice plant; someone’s bacon sizzling too far away to hear but plenty close to offer its scent; back in my garden the sweet scent of tightly-budded flowers of “Reine Victoire” rose in their first flush of bloom; opening the back gate, the scent of 7’ tall sweet peas overpowers everything else within 20’. Well, I may not have a nose so powerful as Beau’s, but at least I don’t seem to be suffering from one of the hallmark symptoms of COVID-19! ■



*Hidden Critters. Photo Julie Maxey-Allison.*

from the bluff remains a long-term objective, as is a tunnel under the Miramar area. Combined these two tunnels would reduce travel time from San Diego to LA to about 2 hours—competitive with cars.

Stay tuned for more as the process proceeds. ■

# HEAVY NUKE LOAD

## A Bridge Too Far

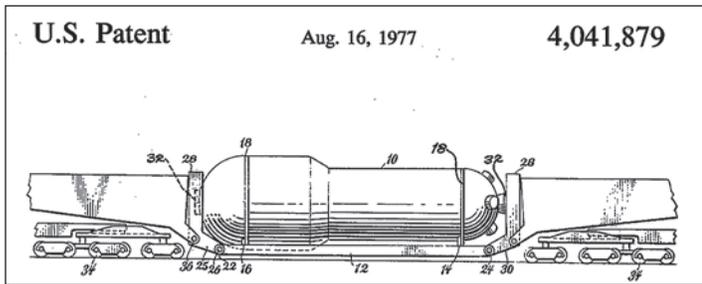
Don Mosier | Rimini Road

**S**outhern California Edison (SCE) has announced plans to move the reactor core from Unit 1, the nuclear generation reactor that operated from 1968 until 1992, from San Onofre to a low-level nuclear waste disposal site in Clive, Utah. In terms of the plans for decommissioning Units 2 and 3, which ceased operation in 2012, this move previews some of the coming challenges.



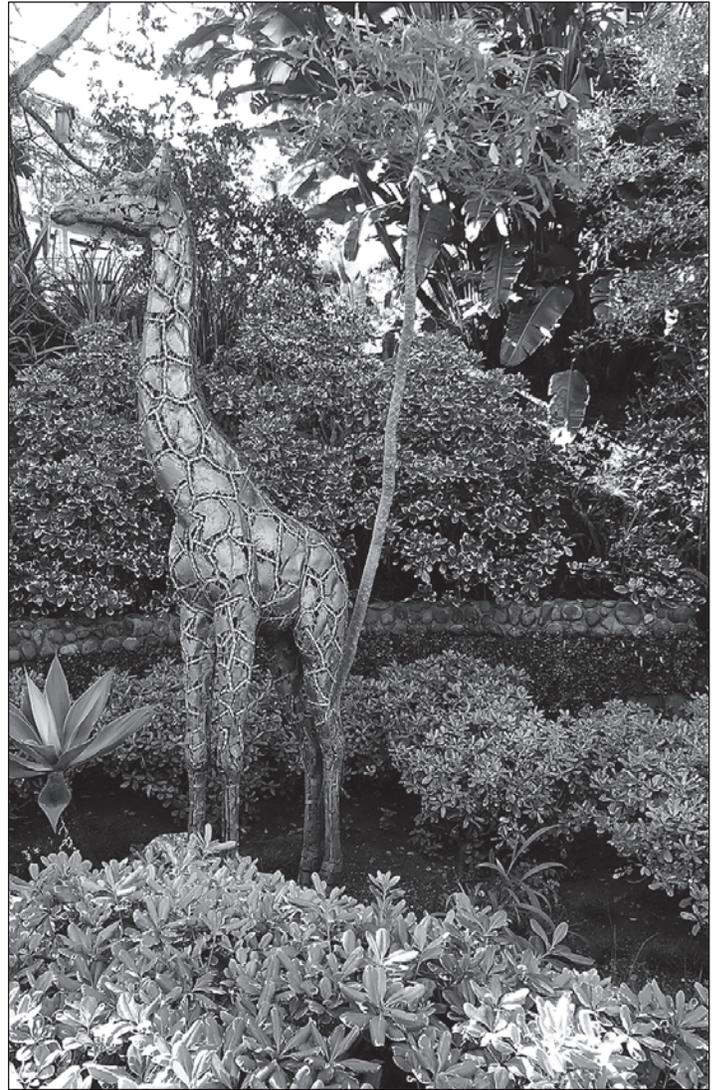
The 770-ton Unit 1 nuclear reactor core packaged for rail transportation. Picture courtesy of Southern California Edison.

First, the Unit 1 core has been stored with a concrete overpack for 28 years while radiation levels declined to a level safe for transport. Techniques for dismantling Units 2 and 3 cores will be different, but the decay of radioactivity is a constant factor. When will they be safe to remove from the current site?



1977 Patent drawing of the Schnabel train car; U.S. Patent Office.

Second, the transport of this very heavy 770-ton load by rail is a challenge. I was intrigued by the use of a Schnabel car, a rail vehicle that I had never heard of. There is a picture of a Schnabel train above. It consists of what looks like →



Less Well-Hidden Critter. Photo Julie Maxey-Allison.

two giant fork lifts facing each other with the heavy canister supported by both. An interesting historical twist is that the design originated in Germany during World War II and was used to transport heavy weapons. The train is limited to 25 mph and the load can be adjusted side-to-side to aid in maneuvering around obstacles on curves.

The load to be transported over our aging rail infrastructure will be equal to the weight of the Schnabel cars (370 tons) and the Unit 1 core reactor vessel (770 tons) for a total of 1100 tons distributed over the 36 axles. The rail spur servicing SONGS has been reinforced to handle this load, but what about the rail bridges between Southern California and central Utah? For local reference, the 104-year old rail bridge over the San Dieguito River in Del Mar has had multiple reinforcements over the last decade to handle freight trains without excess deflection.

Can you imagine the scenario if a 1100-ton load were to cross that bridge? ■

# RANGER STATION AT LAST

Jeff Barnouw | Amphitheatre Drive



*San Dieguito River Park Ranger Station.  
Photo Jeff Barnouw.*

The Grand Public Opening of the San Dieguito River Park Ranger Station, scheduled for April 26, was understandably called off. Some days later I went by myself to visit with SDRP Executive Director Kevin McKernan in his new office in the Ranger Station, observing more than 6-foot social distancing. Furnished only with a few built-in desks and shelves, on which some of the Dust Devils had worked, the Station looked ready to be opened and populated, but also empty and waiting.

Whenever it will be officially inaugurated, the completion of the Ranger Station marks the end of a long struggle, which had appeared hopeless a few years ago. The original plans were done by the same architectural firm that had won an Orchid in 2010 for the new SDRP Office on Sycamore Creek Road three years after the old one was destroyed by the Witch Creek Fire. But when these plans were put out to bid, twice, the cost of building was far beyond what the Park could afford.

Things looked bleak until a chance meeting with Dewain Baker, who had built his home on Bernardo Mountain and turned out to be a custom design/build contractor, opened a way to move forward. The new plans were simpler, they divided offices and garage into two separate buildings, both oriented toward the Lagoon wetlands instead of Via de la Valle. And the price was manageable! The JPA Board gave its blessing in January 2019, construction started in March and was completed on schedule (and on budget) a year later in March 2020.

When conditions allow, the Ranger Station will still be waiting and ready for supporters and users of the Park to visit, maybe for a Grand Public Opening. □

## IN BRIEF

### Off the Bluff in Ten?

As our south beach bluffs continue to crumble, SANDAG, since 2003 has been continually trying to shore them up. The stabilization process, worked on over the years in bits and parts between bluff collapses, is now back on track and expected to continue through the summer. While the stated long term goal is to move the tracks, it is indeed long term, at the earliest 10 years in the future and projected to cost in the billions of dollars. □



*Just below the tracks at about 10th Street.  
Photo Julie Maxey-Allison.*



*Hidden Critters. Photo Julie Maxey-Allison.*

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[www.delmarsandpiper.org](http://www.delmarsandpiper.org)

# SANDPIPER

DEL MAR'S COMMUNITY JOURNAL

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DATED MATERIAL



## LIFEGUARD CHALLENGES Interview with Chief Lifeguard Jon Edelbrock

Julie Maxey-Allison | 10th Street

**Sandpiper (SP):** The beach is opened: how is it going?

**JE:** The beach opening has gone fairly well. As expected, many are quite pleased getting back to the beach despite the limitations on activities. Most are respectful of the open space, the community, and the allowed movement-based rules in place to preserve public health. That said, the opening hasn't been without its challenges: some visitors have been upset because they cannot participate in the experience as they wish. Late afternoon and into the early evening continue to pose the biggest challenge to gain compliance.

**SP:** Are lifeguards having any issues with defiance, if so how is it being handled?

**JE:** The closure and now limited opening both brought challenges and some defiance. First and foremost, our staff is working diligently each day to proactively educate, warn, and encourage behaviors within the current rules. We have had multiple issues daily that require more stern warnings and, on a few occasions, have needed assistance from the Sheriff's Department.

**SP:** I understand there was a dramatic rescue last Saturday, May 16. Can you tell me more?

**JE:** There have been quite a few. I believe you are referring to the cliff rescue south of 4th Street adjacent to the State beach. We were called by State Lifeguard staff to assist with a rope rescue around 3 pm Saturday. A team of four of our staff set up a rope system to lower one of our staff



*Rescue south of 4th Street. Photo Mark Rathsam*

members to safely secure the man who was mid-face down the bluff. Once secured, they lowered him to the ground.

**SP:** So the guy got stuck on the trail going down?

**JE:** He did. He had no medical conditions but simply became nervous and unable to proceed down the goat trail. Additionally, staff made approximately 20 other ocean rescues of swimmers throughout the weekend utilizing our inflatable rescue boat and paddle boards. We are attempting to minimize contact with early warnings and prevention; however, we are still making rescues. We have also had between 2 and 5 wounds from stingrays daily. ■