

Sandpiper

DEL MAR'S COMMUNITY JOURNAL

Volume 27 Number 3 April 2023

CANOPY CARE

by Dolores Davies Jamison | Crest Road

This winter's atmospheric rivers, and the often violent winds that accompany them, have taken a toll on Del Mar's trees. In the last month, three large Torrey Pines have fallen, including a tree on Via Alta—which landed on a power line, resulting in a significant power outage for area neighborhoods. Extreme weather patterns—along with invasive beetles, drought, and development pressures—are threats to our urban forest at a time when we need our trees more than ever. The carbon sequestration, cooling, wildlife support, aesthetics, and quality of life benefits of trees are substantial. They also add significantly to our property values.

The consensus among arborists is that a confluence of factors—torrential rains, fierce winds, damage to roots, and weakening from disease—can cause a mature tree to fall. Torrey Pines—with their considerable lateral and deep roots—are not more likely to fall in a storm. According to Mark Wisniewski, who served as Del Mar's arborist for many years, problems usually start with damage to the roots.

"Tree roots are opportunistic," he says. "They grow where there is sufficient soil, moisture, air and minerals. Torrey Pines are well adapted to Del Mar—roots can grow 20 feet deep or more and laterally, many times the spread of the tree's canopy. If there are no natural or constructed obstacles and if the roots have not been damaged due to construction activity, a Torrey Pine can thrive and live for decades."

When I ask him what residents with large Torrey Pine trees on their property can do to ensure their health and help preserve our urban forest, he says to keep an eye on the tree and look for tell-tale signs that could indicate something is



Photo by by Mark Wisniewski of a tree on Hidden Pines Lane.

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BARKING UP THE WRONG TREE

by Dwight Worden | Del Mar Councilmember

Del Mar needs a comprehensive review and update of its tree policies. Instead, we're getting only review of the Trees Scenic Views and Sunlight Ordinance (TSVS). Updating the TSVS is important, for sure, but in my view it is a mistake to take it on alone. The TSVS is all about

removing and trimming trees to restore views. But, taking that on alone ignores other equally important tree goals:

- Increasing our tree canopy as called for by our adopted Climate Action Plan to increase GHG (green house gases) uptake, provide shade to reduce cooling and energy needs, to provide habitat, water and soil management, to provide privacy, and to beautify the community consistent with the Community Plan
- Managing trees to reduce fire risk
- Updating our dysfunctional tree removal permit requirements
- Establishing clear mitigation criteria for tree replacement when trees are removed
- Updating our Tree Policy Manual
- Updating policies for our protected trees

Done comprehensively, we can find the "sweet spot" where views can be improved while the canopy is increased, and while we transition away from fire prone invasives to native trees, while improving our tree removal and

mitigation requirements and beautifying the community. That approach can garner broad community support. Taking on only the TSVS to improve views while ignoring these other important goals is, in my view, a mistake that will not lead to success or broad community support.

I made the above argument to council at the recent goal setting session on February 13, 2023. I recommended we break the comprehensive review into bite size pieces and take them on in an organized way over time as our resources permit, but in a way that our community can see we are addressing the full scope of tree issues. My recommendation

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TREES OF DEL MAR

Since its inception, the mission of the Sandpiper has been to defend our unique Community Plan, that has guided city policies and procedures since its adoption in 1976. Protecting our distinctive environment and maintaining our community character were primary goals of the Community Plan. Our tree canopy was singled out as a defining characteristic of our community (see original language below), and one that is well worth protecting. Recent events raise concerns that this goal of our Community Plan is being forgotten.

The Community Plan states: “The citizens of Del Mar...were aware that environmental resources are fragile, limited, and endangered by man’s propensity to despoil them more rapidly than they can be renewed or sustained. It is clear that individual actions, if taken without regard to such dangers, and without consideration for overall and long-range community interests, may seriously abuse the living qualities of our environment [and]destroy unique beauty...to the detriment of present and future generations. (CP, original page 53)

The Community Plan notes that “Del Mar falls within the Coastal Scrub Plant community and, other than portions of the San Dieguito Lagoon, has been extensively modified by development. Existing tree masses provide vegetative elements that add to, as well as help to define, the character

of the City. Some of the most dominant trees include: 1) the Monterey Cypress, a native plant from Carmel Bay, California that has been used extensively throughout Del Mar; 2) the Torrey Pine, a species native to the bluffs at Del Mar and, like the Monterey Cypress, used throughout the City as an ornamental plant; and 3) the Eucalyptus, an ornamental tree imported to this country from Australia.” (CP, original page 22)

Torrey Pines and Monterey Cypress are protected trees in Del Mar, but their numbers are decreasing at an alarming rate. Recent windstorms have felled a few, but many more have been sacrificed for new home construction or for view protection. Enforcement of the tree protection ordinance has been lax, and it has been far too easy to get a tree removal permit approved by the Planning Department based on the “opinion” of an arborist hired by the property owner. Payment of mitigation fees and replacement of felled trees sounds like good policy, but it’s not regularly enforced, and actual replacement of a mature tree will take decades to restore the original neighborhood character.

Given that trees sequester carbon from the air (but release most of it into the atmosphere if they are cut down), preserving mature trees and planting more trees is an important goal. The city is finally moving forward on replanting some trees with funding from the Del Mar Foundation, but we will need more efforts like this to stabilize our tree count. With climate change, prolonged drought, bark beetles, and stronger storms, our protected trees need all the help we can muster. If we don’t reverse this trend, we will lose a defining characteristic of Del Mar.



Sandpiper

DEL MAR'S COMMUNITY JOURNAL

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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PLANT A TREE ON EARTH DAY, APRIL 22ND.



*Torrey Pines on the Guy Fleming Trail.
Photo courtesy Del Mar Historical Society.*

TORREY TREASURES

by Julie Maxey-Allison | 10th Street

In the 1500s Spanish sailors used the Torrey pine trees on the cliffs as a navigational aid, calling it Punta de los Arboles. Our local Kumeyaay knew the trees as a source



TIMBER! Photo by Julie Maxey-Allison.

of food, pine nuts, needles for baskets and sap for a glue/sealant. In 1849 Charles C. Parry, a very young botanist completing a survey in the area, noted a “new” species of pine tree, not scientifically classified. Parry made the tree official and named it for his mentor John Torrey. By the 1800s the site was a place to chop down trees for firewood. Parry realized the Torrey pine was a rarity confined to its tiny territory, the foggy shore. It survives on mists and droplets, able to water itself (the Torrey pine is in one other location, Santa Rosa Island). Worried that this rare tree would disappear, Parry lobbied for protection from the San Diego Society of Natural History in 1883. He envisioned the “unique Pacific Coast production so singularly confined within its boundaries” would be dedicated to scientific instruction and recreation. The city set aside 369 acres in 1899. In 1912 Ellen Browning Scripps bought up all the private property lots on the land and gave it to the city. In 1916 Guy L. Fleming pressed for the area to become a park.

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FROM CANOPY CARE

amiss—such as soil movement at the base of the tree or die-back in the crown. Large trees should be examined annually by a certified arborist.

A recent photo taken by Wisniewski of a tree on Hidden Pines Lane shows both the complicated root structure and the resilience of Torrey Pines. The tree—which he has been watching for 20-25 years—appears to be emerging from sandstone, with both lateral roots and deeper growing roots that probably followed deep cracks in the sandstone. Over time—due to erosion and as the deep roots grew in diameter—the sandstone rock broke away and exposed the roots, he explains.

We in Del Mar are lucky to have such a robust and adaptable signature tree. □

FROM BARKING UP WRONG TREE page 1

did not garner the support of my council colleagues and did not make it to the adopted workplan. Only review of the TSVS made it. Here’s what the official minutes of that session report:

“City Council consensus was to pursue updates to the City’s Trees Scenic Views and Sunlight Ordinance in spring 2024 and to start by reviewing similar ordinances in place in Laguna Beach and Tiburon.”

Trees help define Del Mar. We are blessed with many beautiful and productive trees on both public and private property. We can and should manage them to meet all our goals.

Editors note: *At its March 20 meeting, where numerous residents spoke and sent “red dots” in favor of greater protection for Del Mar trees, the Council directed staff to bring back an outline of what would be involved to carry out a comprehensive tree policy review, in terms of resources and timing. No decision has been made, as of yet, to expand the Council workplan beyond updating the TSVS Ordinance.* □



Torrey Pines in the Torrey Pines Reserve. Photo courtesy Del Mar Historical Society.

LEARNING ON THE JOB

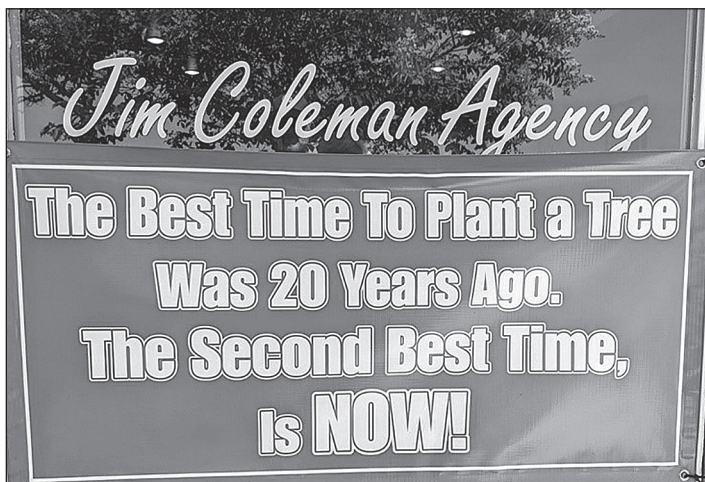
by Jerry Wu | Torrey Pines High School Senior

40 TREES TO CELEBRATE 40 YEARS!

by Hylton Lonstein, President

Last year, DMF launched a plan to celebrate its 40th anniversary with a program to plant 40 trees in Del Mar.

After collaborating with the City and its Parks and Recreation Committee to identify sites, we're delighted to announce that locations for the first 14 trees have been approved by the City, and planting has begun, fully funded by DMF. Trees with protected status in Del Mar comprise the majority: 10 Torrey Pines, and two Monterey Cypress.



As the sign displayed last July in Jim Coleman's window notes, the second-best time to plant trees is now! Between now and next fall (when best season for planting trees returns), we'll be working with the community, including the Parks & Rec and Sustainability Committees, Adopt-a-Spot volunteers, and interested individuals, to identify locations for the next group of trees. And we'll publish a "40 Trees Map" so you can follow the progress of this project, and check out the new trees.

Art - Coming Soon to the Civic Center?

We are hard at work with the City's Arts Advisory Committee on a project to bring a significant sculpture to the Del Mar Civic Center. The April 3 City Council agenda should have details, and we'll be sharing lots of details and opportunities for community engagement as this project proceeds. So if you're not already on DMF's email list, now is a good time to join! bit.ly/DMF-signup ■

Identified by its trademarked green mermaid and perfume of freshly brewed coffee, the Starbucks drive-thru is where **Karina Levinson** greets her everyday customers. The **Del Norte High School senior** pulls aside the slide-open window, fogged from condensation, and hands over the drink. A seemingly simple task Karina repeats is always decorated by her colorful side-chatting with newcomers or regulars to the store.

"I love that position because all you do is talk to people and learn about their days. You get a window into their lives that you would not if you had not worked there," she said.

Karina, like many other high schoolers, has a part-time job. She has worked at Starbucks as a barista for the last year and a half. Having first applied for the job as a cashier, she later worked in drive-thrus, seeing her "improved communication skills" with coworkers and customers.

In Karina's eyes, high schoolers should strive to experience the roles of responsibility and leadership in the workplace. But she underlines that finding a suitable work environment enables the students to take the most value from that job.

"Being in an environment you do not enjoy will only make you dislike working more. What says that these students will like their second job?" she said. "I think that someone who works should be aware of what they are putting themselves through."

Arman Dahli, a Canyon Crest Academy senior working three days a week at the Team Touché Fencing Center, wonders if he had not pushed himself to seek a job in high school, he would have overcome his social anxiety.

For the last two years, leading children in group lessons while teaching them new fencing skills has honed his confidence and persistence as a mentor and club employee.

"I was nervous at the start having to work with parents. I have always suffered from social anxiety. So having to deal with parents was a good way for me to get over that with this job," Arman said.

What has allowed Arman to continue his part-time job for so long is the time management of his academic schedule, knowing his responsibilities also lie at the club.

High schoolers like Arman and Karina share an aspect of human connection—others find solace in jobs that pertain to their academic interests and future careers.

Starting as a high school intern at a university-based biotech company, **Will Kwon, a Torrey Pines High School senior**, is employed as a software developer and most recently coded an IOS app for a medical device. →



by Ashley Simpkins, Program Director



Bark Beetles Attack. Courtesy Del Mar Historical Society.

Without their sponsorship, the Torrey Pines State Natural Reserve would likely be treeless, coated in condos.

The Torrey pine is still in trouble at the Reserve. This endangered species is under threat from bark beetles that have killed whole groves. The Reserve is experimenting with replanting Torrey saplings. Regrowth, if successful, will take years.

In Del Mar trees are part of our personality. The Torrey pine, our signature tree, its wispy needles featured on our logo, is protected. But it may not be protected enough to preserve Parry's mission of safeguarding the Torrey and our tree canopy. Our trees are being attacked by the bark beetle and contests over views, development redesigns, troubles with overgrowth due to overwatering, poor maintenance without periodic lacing, and age. Indeed, a few older trees have toppled over this winter during the storms.

Though the Torrey and Monterey Cypress are in a special category, oversight is slight. Tree removal permits are liberally granted. The city does tend to tree crises on city land and has an approved Public Tree Policy (2004). It is time to refocus and enforce the policy and offer guidance on proper tree management and maintenance. ■

Early entrance into the biotechnology field has offered him important insight: into operating novel machine-learning algorithms and seeking mentorships with other employees at the company. In Will's case, he hopes to spearhead his entrepreneurship by starting his own software business.

"When you have a new research paper, you might not see the finished product in the market five or ten years later. A lot of it is due to underdeveloped software, so I am working to make it more accessible and speed the process for companies to create software for the devices so they can get to the market in one or two years," he said.

For students, their constant fixation with high school as a prime pathway of self-discovery, calling for further exploration and commitment to a part-time job that bears unique merits of its own. ■

I Scream, You Scream!

Are you a fan of DMCC's Social and Good Times events? You won't want to miss the 2023 Ice Cream Social on April 28! The committee led by Linda Chisari is planning a celebration that will outdo last year's. While you get to select and enjoy your favorite classic treat from an ice cream truck, you'll be entertained by a barbershop quartet. As always, the best part is meeting up with longtime friends and neighbors while enjoying a gorgeous ocean view from the Del Mar Civic Center. Make sure that you're subscribed to DMCC's email list so that you don't miss your opportunity to sign up for this fun – and free – event!

Del Mar Rental Assistance Saved

We want to express our deep gratitude to the countless community members who helped to save the Del Mar Rental Assistance program for the four existing participant families. You lobbied Del Mar City Council by attending the March 6 meeting or by submitting red dot communications to ask that DMCC's proposal be approved. The families involved were on the brink of homelessness due to the intended cancellation of the program, and they can now rest easy in the knowledge that their community fought successfully to keep them as neighbors. We would also like to acknowledge Mayor Tracy Martinez and Council Member Dwight Worden for being champions of the effort. The DMCC Board of Directors voted unanimously to create the compromise proposal, and we are grateful for the support that the community showed for it.

Volunteer of the Month – March

DMCC's Volunteer of the Month for March 2023 was Annie Duval. Annie was nominated by Development Chair Mary Walshok for being key to the creation and distribution of the Gordon Clanton Memorial Award, a stipend awarded to an undergraduate sociology student dedicated to collecting the wisdom of older adults, created in the wake of the passing of a beloved DMCC board member.

DMCC programs and services depend on our incredible volunteers! To learn more about Annie or becoming a DMCC volunteer, visit dmcc.cc/volunteerofthemonth.

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

Please visit our website at dmcc.cc or contact the DMCC office at (858) 792-7565 or dmcc@dmcc.cc. ■

PAT SCHROEDER: STELLAR ROLE MODEL

by Betty Wheeler | Seaview Avenue

Editors note: Pat Schroeder died on March 11, 2023.

In 1973, I rode a Greyhound bus from the Texas Panhandle to Washington, D.C. to participate in a program called “Washington Semester.” I was 18, so naïve that I told people I was excited to be going North for the first time – until someone set me straight that D.C. was south of the Mason-Dixon Line.



Pat Schroeder and Betty Wheeler at a House Judiciary Committee hearing, c. Sept. 1996)

How extraordinary that fall semester was: the Watergate hearings were underway; the “Saturday Night Massacre” rocked D.C., and we students had a front row seat as Congress managed a constitutional crisis. My internship was with Pat Schroeder, serving her first year in Congress – just 32 when she was elected in 1972 from Denver, defeating a GOP incumbent despite Nixon’s landslide victory. Her campaign was anti-war, pro-family and children, pro-choice, and pro-environment – and, she later learned, under FBI surveillance. No one expected her to win, much less to become, in time, the most senior woman in Congress.

In 1973, only 16 of the 435 Congressmembers were women. Pat arrived with two young children, one still in diapers – shocking! It was an eventful legislative year: the Case-Church Amendment ended direct U.S. military involvement in Vietnam; the Endangered Species Act was enacted. Pat fought to become the first woman on the House Armed Services Committee (HASC), to the dismay of its chairman, Edward Hébert (D-Louisiana). He was forced to seat her on “his” committee, but refused her an actual seat, requiring her to share a chair with Ron Dellums (D-Oakland). Throughout her tenure (or, as she joked, her “24 years in a federal institution”), she worked to control military spending, improve conditions for military families, champion women and gays in the military, and fund

important medical research at military facilities to address the woeful under-inclusion of women in research trials.

Pat was a stellar role model – creative and unorthodox (even Harvard Law couldn’t erase those traits!), energetic, brainy, generous with her time. She never forgot a birthday. And she gave me a priceless gift: a wonderful beginning and end to my own career. After that 1973 internship, I worked for her campaign in 1974, then, during law school at Georgetown, as her legislative aide. One highlight: representing her in the Coalition to End Discrimination Against Pregnant Women, which succeeded in legislatively overturning a Supreme Court decision ruling that pregnancy-based discrimination was not “sex discrimination.”

Some 15 years later, I got a call from D.C., asking if I would return to serve as her counsel. With lots of cross-country flights between my Del Mar home and D.C., I first worked for HASC’s Research & Technology Subcommittee, which Pat chaired; then, during the “Gingrich revolution,” as her counsel on the Judiciary Committee, where a highlight was our work to protect creative works in the digital age, and “lowlights” included unsuccessfully opposing the anti-gay “Defense of Marriage Act,” and managing the opposition to the so-called “Partial Birth Abortion Ban” bill on the House floor.

Through it all, I had the privilege of watching Pat Schroeder in action – a sight to behold. She set the bar high, and the world is a better place because she was here. ■

The Del Mar Arts Advisory Committee presents:

“An Instant Out of Time”

—Dorothea Lange



AN EXHIBITION OF LOCAL PHOTOGRAPHY

with a performance by the Lynch Dance Institute



Photo by John Weare

Friday, May 5: 5:30-7:30pm

5:30-6:15pm—Viewing with wine and light refreshments
6:15—Dance Performance

Saturday, May 6 1:00-3:00pm

1:00-3:00pm—General Viewing

*Del Mar Town Hall
1050 Camino Del Mar*

*free parking under Civic Center

Refreshments sponsored by



Call for Art

DEADLINE TO SUBMIT: APRIL 15, 2023

Submissions of up to two images must be sent via email with title, date, size, photographer name, email, and phone # to DelMarArtShow@gmail.com
*each image must be no bigger than 11x17

Thursday, May 4: 10:00am—3:00pm

Accepted images delivered to Town Hall, ready to hang with wire and frame

Saturday, May 7: 3:00-4:00pm

Pick up images from Town Hall

LUNAR SANDSCAPE



*Space sand, rocky walking.
Photos by Julie Maxey-Allison.*

In Brief

Solar Success

The 212 solar panels on the roof of the Del Mar City Hall started producing energy in November 2018. Since then, the positive environmental impacts of the 35 MegaWattHrs of electricity produced have resulted in 320,985 kg (354 tons) of CO₂ emissions avoided and the equivalent of 5,342 trees planted according to the SolarEdge monitoring system. The electricity generated saved the city over \$178,000 in avoided SDG&E bills. Of course, the trees planted metric only considers carbon sequestration by trees, not their many other benefits cited elsewhere in this issue.



Factoid

The average residential electricity rate for San Diego Gas & Electric customers is now 39 cents per kilowatt hour, the highest in the nation (23 cents average) except for Hawaii. ■



*Gravity grinds down drenched cliffs.
Photos by Julie Maxey-Allison.*

INTELLIGENTLY ARTIFICIAL

by Sudepto Roy | Klish Way

In recent months, I have spoken about the advances in Artificial Intelligence, including a Nov 2020 Sandpiper article on GPT (Generative Pretrained Transformer, a technology that is trained on millions of documents, and generates human-like text in response to prompts), and talks both at the Del Mar Foundation and at Del Mar Community Connections.

Since its public release in Nov 2022, the ChatGPT program from OpenAI has become the fastest adopted app in history, highlighting both its immense popularity and unending intrigue. Users have gotten ChatGPT to author responses to exam questions, college-level lesson plans, admission essays, resumes, cover letters, startup pitch decks, and even novels and screenplays. Many have launched brand new businesses utilizing ChatGPT's functionality that did not exist until four months ago. While OpenAI is upfront with their note of caution that ChatGPT-3 can produce incorrect results and that the public release is based on older documents (i.e., 2021 and earlier), the program has already scored well on SAT, and passed MBA exams, the Bar exam and even a medical board exam.

The race for technology leadership using generators and transformers is well underway. Microsoft upped its initial investment in OpenAI by 10B\$, raising speculation that future Bing search and Office products will be infused with GPT. Alphabet reportedly issued an internal 'code-red' after the public release of ChatGPT3 and is expected to release its competitive offerings later in the year. Meta as a leader in both virtual reality and as the curator of digital conversations through Facebook and WhatsApp, can endow its bots with not only epistemologically derived knowledge but also real insights gleaned from informal or formal conversations. Chinese AI companies are considered to have an edge in computer vision and contextual awareness technologies. Venture capitalists are also betting that startups (such as OpenAI) will be significant stakeholders in this new AI race, and not just big tech.

While this level of progress and excitement is exhilarating, a common thread of questions emerge. Will this give rise to rampant plagiarism? Does it sound the death-knell for creative jobs? How to tell apart fake from real? AI language models like ChatGPT have the potential to impact the creative writing industry and lead to increased instances of plagiarism. There are steps that can be taken to mitigate these risks, such as using plagiarism detection software and developing AI models that are able to detect and flag fake content. While AI language models may change the way that writing and content creation are done, they are unlikely to completely replace human creativity and critical thinking. □



DMCC Volunteers and staff at last year's Ice Cream Social

From left: Social and Good Times Chair Linda Chisari, Program Director Ashley Simpkins, Maryka Hoover, Liz Dernetz, Dan DeNike, Barbara Ann Paulovich, Carly Michaels, Board Member Marilyn Carpenter, Assistant Program Director Kara Adams.

*This year's Ice Cream Social will be on April 28.
More info page 5.*

In Brief

Bully's Redo

A message from Hillstone Guest Services regarding the proposed restaurant to be built in the hollow vacated by Bully's:

"We are really excited about Del Mar, and you should see some changes on the site soon with construction getting under way. However, it's likely the construction process will take well over a year. We look forward to the pleasure of serving you in 2024!" □

Who's got the higher IQ — YOU or AI?

• One of the paragraphs in Sudepto's piece was written by ChatGPT. Can you spot the synthetically authored content? The AI-generated paragraph will be identified in the May Sandpiper issue.

• The winners will also be listed in the May issue.

• There are 4 paragraphs in this article, so your response to the Editor should indicate which paragraph (1, 2, 3 or 4) was generated by ChatGPT. Only **one** guess per response, please.

• Please reply to: editor@delmarsandpiper.org

ANN SILBER

Along with her sweet disposition and razor sharp wit, Ann, who passed away on March 15, 2023 at the age of 99, will be remembered as one of the founders of Del Mar Community Connections (DMCC), which helps the seniors of Del Mar age comfortably in their own homes. Ann, Nancy Weare, and a few others brought DMCC to life. ■

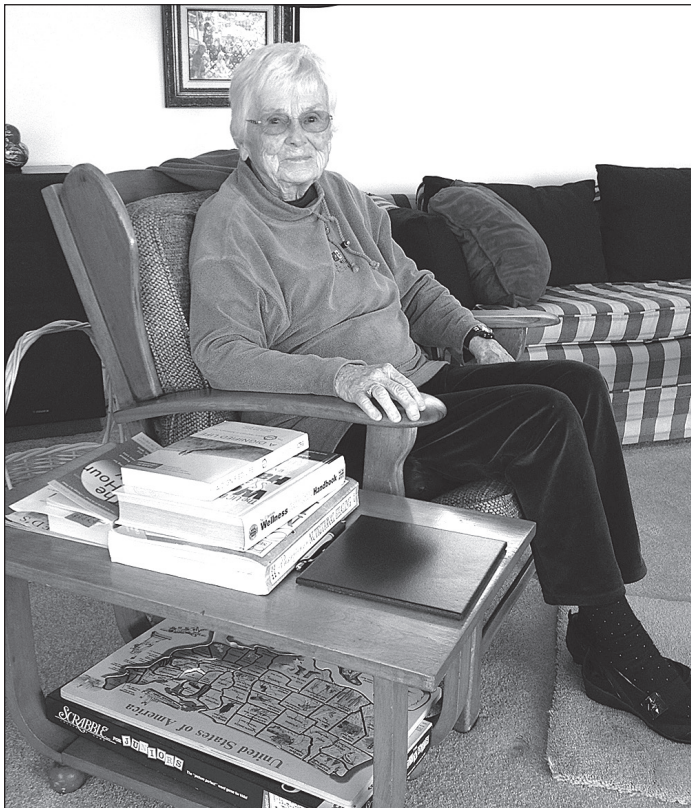


Photo by Nancy Fisher.

Rental Rescue

At the March 6th City Council meeting, the Council voted unanimously to accept the offer of Del Mar Community Connections to continue to administer the Rental Assistance program benefiting four long-term residents, with the City funding half of the annual cost, estimated at \$80-90,000 total per year, and half funded by community donations and DMCC. All public comments were in favor of continuation of the program for the current four participating families, with many arguing that this was both a legal and moral obligation of the City. The council action reversed the earlier decision to terminate the program this July after strong negative feedback from Del Mar residents and commentary in the Sandpiper.

As an interesting footnote, the staff report indicated that the rental assistance program was a component of the city's 6th cycle Housing Element, correcting prior assertions that its inclusion was a clerical error. The next item on the March 6th agenda was an updated financial report that showed city revenues have returned to pre-pandemic levels and that the \$40,000 pledged for rental assistance will not have a significant impact on city finances.

COVID Persistence

After an uptick in January, the number of COVID cases in San Diego County has leveled off with data for early March showing about 150 hospitalizations and 15 deaths per week, almost all of which occurred in the elderly population. Barring the appearance of another highly infectious variant, this level trend is predicted to continue in the coming months. Before we celebrate, these results mean that the COVID virus is here to stay and remains dangerous for vulnerable individuals. ■

In Brief

Rain Retention

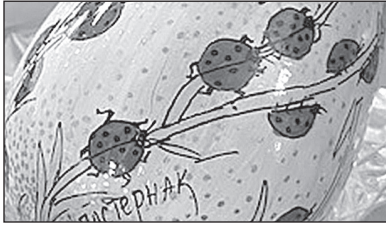
This year winter storms brought much needed water to drought riddled California. The question now is how to catch and store this water. Researchers across the West are seeking solutions with the goal of helping aquifers replenish themselves. Possible statewide answers include groundwater recharge projects that guide water to basins allowing water to settle and seep into the ground and injection wells that drive the water directly into aquifers. In addition, permeable pavements, in place on some San Francisco streets—and on the outdoor parking lot of the Del Mar Civic Center—enable water to flow into the soil, an example that other cities can follow. Meanwhile, residents can help preserve water by maintaining a healthy tree population, planting rooftop gardens, and using cisterns and rain barrels. ■



Shirley King with her 200-gallon rain barrel.
Photo by Art Olson.

GOOD GIRLS

by Julie Maxey-Allison | 10th Street



*Hand-painted ladybugs
on an eggshell.
Photo by Virginia Lawrence.*

While classified as a beetle, finessing the factoid that half are not all female, this ruby red beetle, Coccinellidae, from the Latin *coccineus*, meaning scarlet, does identify as a ladybug. Happy in many varied habitats such as cities, forests,

and grasslands, these European natives were first brought to North America to control aphids in the mid 1900s. They did. With their hearty pest consuming appetites, an adult ladybug can devour 75 aphids a day. Ladybugs also enjoy moth eggs, mites, scales, thrips, leaf hoppers, mealybugs, chinch bugs, asparagus beetle larvae, whitefly among other delicacies during their year long life cycle. They were a hit. California is now home to some 100 species of ladybugs (there are 5000 worldwide) and ladybugs have reached the status of the official state insect for Delaware, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Ohio, and Tennessee though not in California where our state insect is Dogface Butterfly.

Ladybugs possibly got their name and earned a good reputation from early European farmers who, looking for help against the pests devouring their crops, prayed to the Virgin Mary. Her answer was the beetle. The beetles proved to be accomplished and considerate pest controllers because they did not damage crops in the process. In thanks, the farmers named them the beetle of Our Lady, first shortened to lady beetle then ladybug. They are often thought of as good luck, lucky ladies. In England a ladybug is a sign of a good harvest, in Sweden, a ladybug landing on a young girl's hand is a signal she will soon be married. A grouping of them is called a loveliness.

That fashionable ladybug red color, sometimes with decorative black dots, differing from the beetle basic black that does add to their appeal, is actually a signal to predators not to proceed. If threatened, ladybugs can take care of themselves by releasing a nasty smelling chemical that dissuades their enemies.

They can also fly away and in fact have been flown to outer space. Four ladybugs along with a jar of aphids traveled up on a space shuttle. Doing their bit for science, the ladybugs were part of a study on zero gravity. As it turned out the ladybugs managed very well without the help of gravity. They handily captured their prey, the aphids, and ate them at zero gravity.

Clearly a help to farms and gardens internationally, →

Quotable Del Mar

RALPH KEELING

Ralph Keeling on The Keeling Curve and Climate Change

“I look at my father’s work as a beautiful piece of work...a signal that reflects the whole world...[and] a ringing alarm bell. The only light at the end of the tunnel is weaning ourselves of fossil fuels – a huge challenge, but one that isn’t impossible.”

Ralph Keeling, professor of geochemistry and Principal Investigator for the Atmospheric Oxygen Research Group at Scripps Institute of Oceanography, developed techniques to precisely measure changes in atmospheric oxygen levels. He is also the director of the Scripps CO2 Program, the measurement program behind the Keeling Curve, a daily record of global atmospheric carbon dioxide concentration begun in 1958 by his father, Charles David “Dave” Keeling. Dave and Louise Keeling raised their five children in Del Mar, where Louise still resides. The quotation above is from a March 2017 Sandpiper article, “A Signal That Reflects the Whole World: The Keelings, Del Mar & Climate Change.” The full article can be found on the Sandpiper website. ▣



*The Keeling Family in 1968 - Ralph at left in plaid shirt.
Photo courtesy of Louise Keeling.*

ladybugs are not only used in small gardens locally but also by large institutions such as the San Diego Zoo Wildlife Alliance and San Diego Zoo Safari Park where they aid to pest control management. ▣

POWER DOWN?

by Ann Feeney | Rimini Road

Recently a large Torrey Pine on Via Alta fell onto a power line and many houses on Crest Road lost power for about 20 hours. What can you do to have backup power to heat your home and your water, and to keep essentials such as your refrigerator, garage door opener, and security systems running during an outage? The two main types of power backup are battery storage and gas or propane-powered generators, and with these you can choose what to keep running.

If you have rooftop solar, batteries can store all that sun-generated free energy so that it is available for you to use every evening or when it is rainy. In addition, they are also a great source of short-term backup energy in case of a power failure. A popular option is a Tesla Powerwall, or similar batteries from LG or Panasonic. They cost about \$12,000 each, plus installation. One Powerwall supplies enough electricity for some appliances in power outages, but multiple batteries are needed for full home power backup.



After a tree fell on power lines in March, Via Alta was totally closed and a large number of Hillside residents were without power or internet for more than a day.
Photo by Rosanne Holliday.

Another new option for storage is “bidirectional charging” from your electric car or truck. More and more electric vehicles can use their battery to power your home. The “vehicle to load” or “vehicle to grid” options allow you to plug into an outlet on your vehicle to power essential appliances, or to power your whole house via a DC to AC inverter and a grid disconnect switch. Vehicle batteries typically have much more capacity than a Powerwall, but you have to leave your car plugged in to use that power.

Generators can also be used for backup. Backup generators cost in the range of \$4,000-5,000 plus installation, →

Dogs of Del Mar

BRINKLEY

by Hylton Lonstein | Bernwood Place



Photo by Betsy Milove.

Sandpiper: What have you learned about your family? (*Betsy & Bradd Milove - Kalamath Drive*)

Brinkley: When I first came to my new house, I thought every family member was using my name which starts with the letter “B” but soon I realized they were talking to one another. Because one day I heard my mom, Betsy, tell someone that all of her family member names start with a B. That made me feel really good because they named me with a B so I felt like they loved me enough to be made a

member of the family. That is really cool!

Sandpiper: What do you like about Del Mar?

Brinkley: Oh boy, lots of things. dog park, dog beach, and a dog store with lots of toys and good food!

Sandpiper: What is your favorite activity?

Brinkley: My mom takes me out walking every day. I especially love going to dog park to meet other friendly dogs. And I love to walk around town because I meet so many people who like to rub my head, my back, and my chest. It seems like a very friendly town for dogs. But I do worry that some cars seem to be going a little too fast. ▣

and these can power basic essentials such as heating, hot water and your refrigerator. Smaller, less expensive generators can provide power for one or two appliances.

Having natural gas in your home is NOT a source of backup power. Your gas water heater or gas furnace will not work without electricity. Some gas cooktops can be started with a match, but not all. Your electric vent for your stove will not work, so your indoor air quality will suffer. Propane camping stoves or charcoal BBQs provide an outdoor cooking option.

Be prepared and evaluate the best option for you to provide backup in the case of a power outage. As we learned from the recent storms and past wildfires and heat waves, nature can turn off the power at any time. ▣

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Young Voices

LIFEGUARD LEADERSHIP

by Issie Barrett | Junior, The Bishop's School

The Sandpiper happily introduces our new intern, Issie Barrett.

We've all seen the movies. Tan, shirtless lifeguards dressed in red, running in slow motion before diving off the motorboat and into the water. Sure, lifeguarding might be tough, but look at how electrifying the job is, right? But being a lifeguard, like so many EMS (Emergency Medical Services) jobs, is not as glamorous as Baywatch paints it to be.

With an average of 800 water-related rescues and 1,100 medical aids per year, being a Del Mar lifeguard isn't easy. The burden of such a responsibility is a heavy one to bear, yet lifeguards love their job.

"Some people love the ocean...people that are ocean people live, play, work, eat, sleep, breathe the ocean. Lifeguarding is a good career that allows you to be in the environment that you love so much," said Sean Hogan, one of four full-time lifeguards. "It's definitely a calling—and a lifestyle." Though lifeguards may seem like the epitome of Southern Californians, with their top-shape health and friendly manner, they cannot do the one thing we all come to the beach to do: relax.

"A lot of lifeguards learn how to be very observant of their environment," said Hogan. "They're always paying attention to detail, and that's a skill that is learned." In a practice called "preventative lifeguarding," lifeguards try to spot the problem before it even happens. They constantly scan the coast with binoculars, and every thirty minutes, they conduct patrols.

"People's perception is that we're just going for a cruise. But in reality, we're waiting for situations to arise because in this line of work, everything happens very very quickly, and it can go from 0-100 in the snap of a finger," Hogan said. With finding missing children, remedying stingray and jellyfish stings, swimming 20 feet out in a rip current, and dealing with the dead, lifeguards are kept quite busy.



The Del Mar Lifeguards first set up in 1965. Here they are in front of their 1960 Chevrolet truck. Front - Jack Ross, Gardner Stevens (first chief), Ron Jensen. Back - Paul Krause, Gerry Meir, and Peter Critchlow. Courtesy Larry Brooks and the Del Mar Historical Society.

Added to that is the customer service aspect of handling upset parents, crying children, and panicked swimmers. Lifeguarding is a multifaceted job, requiring incredible amounts of passion, determination, and skill. But Hogan says "that's just what a rescuer does. They help people when nobody else can."

Finally, Hogan warns readers that "the number one thing that kills people in rip currents is panicking. People don't realize that saltwater is denser than freshwater, and if all else fails you can lay on your back and float, and not expend a lot of energy and not panic. There's this fear of the ocean as an endless abyss, but generally, the depth of the water where rip currents occur is going to be no deeper than 8 feet of water. It's pretty much the same as a swimming pool, if not shallower." □