

# Sandpiper

DEL MAR'S COMMUNITY JOURNAL

Volume 27 Number 10

December 2023

## Roving Teen Reporter

### BOOK BANNING

By Kathryn Reese | Torrey Pines High School Senior

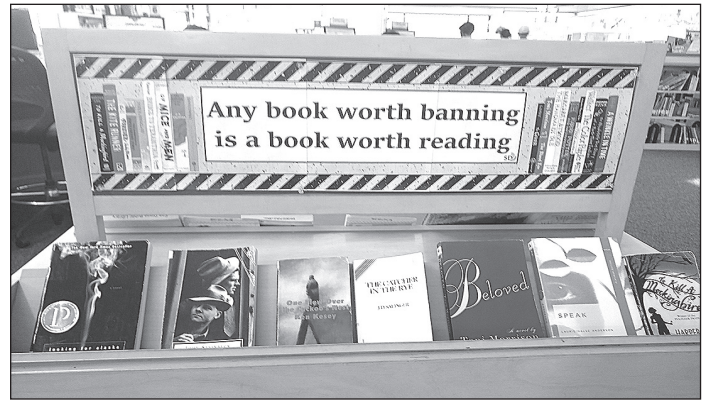
Attempts to censor reading materials in libraries and schools across the U.S. are more prevalent than ever, with documented challenges to over 1,900 different books between Jan. 1 and Aug. 31, 2023 — 20 percent more than those challenged during 2022, according to the American Library Association's Office for Intellectual Freedom. The four most challenged books of 2022 included Gender Queer, All Boys Aren't Blue, The Bluest Eye, and Flamer. Of all book challenges, 30 percent were initiated by parents and 28 percent by library patrons, according to an ALA report.

The San Diego Public Library sometimes receives such requests, according to the library's Collection Development Manager, Jennifer Lawson.

"Some years it's none, and some years I think I've had as many as maybe four or five [requests made]. In this past calendar year, I think maybe one [was submitted]," Lawson said.

The library has a formal process for addressing removal requests, according to Lawson. Someone who wants a book to be removed can be given a "Request for Consideration of Library Material" form, which begins the process of the library deciding if the book should remain in their collection. However, the removal of a book is not done "lightly."

"We do support the principles of intellectual freedom and we support the rights of citizens to have free access to materials and information," Lawson said. "So book banning in general doesn't really align with our organizational values."



*Banned books on display at the Carmel Valley Library.  
Photos by Ann Gardner.*

For many young people, the rising number of book challenges is concerning. "Speaking specifically about the recent wave of anti-queer book bannings across the US, it's more important than ever that commonly challenged reading materials are available to the public," Torrey Pines High School senior Lucie Babcock said.

"...Seeing themselves understood and reflected in a book can be a life changing experience for children, and these book bannings prevent this."

Torrey Pines senior Jasmine Rico said being able to "insert" herself into the lives of characters is important.

"Growing up, in television, media, and even in books, you would hardly see a lot of black characters or they'll have stereotypical black characters," Rico said. "Nowadays, there are a lot of fantasy books where you can just insert yourself into a character and you can see yourself."

Supporting access to relatable, educational books is a goal of the Through the Looking Glass Book Club, which Babcock founded with her co-president, Torrey Pines senior Sydney Robinson. The club hosts an annual book drive to collect books to restock libraries in communities devastated by natural disasters.

"As a club, our used book drive with Reader to Reader is one way that we try to support free access to reading material for all," Babcock said.

Robinson said kids will need to learn about commonly challenged topics at some point. It's important to students to have access to reading material that they want to read about," Robinson said. "Books encourage critical thinking and students should be able to make up their own minds about these concepts." ■



## PRIORITIES 2024

**D**el Mar, our home: a bit of history. Each era has its own particular set of problems and priorities that require strong clear leadership. In the 1970s intelligent residents with varying opinions, who appreciated our unique location, worked together to solve the issues of that day. One result of the leadership of the time with people working together for a common cause was our Community Plan. With a lot of effort and collaboration, it was drawn up, studied, amended and finalized. Goals and objectives were adopted to restore the lagoon and to protect access to the Pacific Ocean, now framed by green grass parks, our singular Torrey Pines, walkable terrain—the Del Mar we know today.

Today our list of issues starts with climate change. The City's recently adopted "Resolution Re-affirming the Declaration of a Climate Emergency for the City of Del Mar" follows the 2020 declaration of a local climate emergency and the 2016 adoption of a Climate Action Plan. The updated resolution catalogs "drought, extreme heat, wildfires, species stress, dying Torrey Pines, shrinking kelp forest and coastal erosion, sea level rise, and flooding" as all too real problems Del Mar now faces.



## 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.

**Editorial Board:** Jeff Barnouw, Bud Emerson, Virginia Lawrence, Hylton Lonstein, Julie Maxey-Allison, Don Mosier, Betty Wheeler.

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Add to the critical challenge of climate change the state mandate to plan sites for affordable houses, the puzzle of how to end the train travel on our crumbling cliffs, the next phase of undergrounding our electrical wires, street repair, traffic management, structuring city guidelines for additional dwelling units to best insure neighborhood serenity, and of course many more.

These are tough, serious problems. It is time for robust leadership and broad citizen involvement. It is time for people with diverse viewpoints to cooperatively work toward serious solutions. Our first priority: pool our intellectual resources, trade in the tired infighting—the flow of low blows and vicious slogs—for civil debate to generate creative answers for now and the future Del Mar.

We know how to do this. Despite our small differences, Del Mar neighbors help their neighbors in need, no questions about political alliances asked. Our non-profits benefit the entire community and help bind us together. We all love Del Mar and we can succeed by articulating our differences but working towards a consensus in a respectful and civil manner. □

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## BEHIND THE FENCE

Photos by Julie Maxey-Allison.

**C**onstruction continues at the lot that was Bully's, growing up from the finished basement level.





# SCIENCE MEETS ART IN DEL MAR

## Visualizing the Beauty and Complexity of the Living Cell

By Art Olson | Avenida Primavera

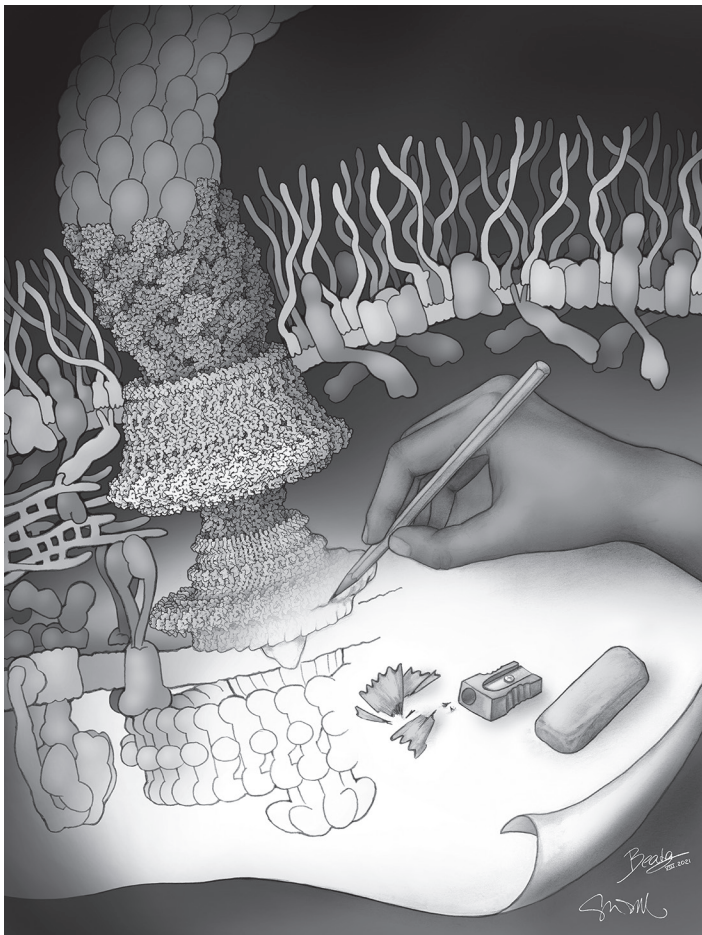


Photo courtesy Beata Science Art.

**O**n January 18, a DMFTalk and art show, “Art Meets Science: Visualizing the Hidden Beauty and Complexity Inside the Living Cell,” will bring the submicroscopic world of cells into focus, providing the public a fascinating glimpse into the experimental and computational capabilities science now has to develop models of the workings of cells – the basic unit of all life – down to the atomic level.

The art show will include works ranging from watercolors to fashion design by highly regarded practitioners in this field. The talks will feature four world renowned scientist/artists whose works have been shown widely in venues ranging from science and art museums to broadcast television and film. Registration for this free event at Town Hall will be available online at [www.delmarfoundation.org](http://www.delmarfoundation.org) beginning in mid-December.

Cells range in size and complexity from simple bacteria to human cells. Because of the complexity of even the



## IN BRIEF

### Parking: Respect the Intent

Parking spaces reserved for the handicapped are in place for a purpose: to provide people with disabilities a place to park. The adjacent blue crosshatch areas are designated spaces for wheelchair lifts. Sadly, many take advantage by overusing a Disabled Person Parking Placard that is no longer needed and/or by using a faked placard. For those fortunate enough to be abled bodied, please understand and respect the signage.



simplest cells, which are composed of millions of biological molecules (e.g. proteins, DNA, RNA, carbohydrates and lipids) of thousands of different varieties and structures, visualization is key to integrating and understanding how they all work together to create the process of life. This is where art can play a significant role by making this information comprehensible and by bringing the hidden beauty of this submicroscopic world into focus for not only scientists, but also for students and the general public.

Visualizing the inner workings of the fundamental basis of life – the cell – will be also be the focus of a group of scientists, technologists and artists from around the world who will meet in here in January, gathering for a 3-day conference to share a remarkable variety of perspectives on cell visualization that range from experiment to model to interpretation to visualization and communication. Visualizing and interacting with these models will enable greater understanding of living systems and will have enhanced utility for application in medicine and technology.

*Art Olson, a professor at Scripps Research, has worked over the past 40 years on modeling, visualization and analysis of biological assemblies spanning length scales from atoms to cells, and is an organizer of the CellVis conference occurring in at Scripps in January 2024. ▣*

By Ann Feeney | Rimini Road

by Hylton Lonstein, President

December is a natural time for each of us to reflect on the year, and focus on what we need to check off our “to do” list before ringing in the new year. It’s a time when DMF sums up its work for the year in just two pages – not an easy task for a foundation that produces a full calendar of events, and in 2023, committed more than \$130,000 in grants to benefit our community. Check out our 2023 Year In Review here: [www.delmarfoundation.org/2023](http://www.delmarfoundation.org/2023).

By the numbers, DMF’s 2023 events included:

- 10 First Thursdays
- 5 DMF Talks
- 4 Summer Twilight Concerts
- 2 Easter events – at Del Mar Plaza for kids; Shores Park for dogs
- 1 Valentine’s meet and greet for dogs and their humans
- 1 July 4th Parade
- 1 Community Picnic
- 1 Halloween Beach BOOGie -- and more!

We highlighted DMF’s 2023 grants in last month’s column. Just a few are shown below - Del Mar Climate Symposium; San Dieguito River Park; beach wheelchairs and mats.



We hope DMF has earned a place on your year-end “to do” list, if you haven’t already donated to support our work. Donate online: <https://bit.ly/2023-dmf>. Or send a check to Del Mar Foundation, PO Box 2913, Del Mar, CA 92014. Thank you! ■

At holiday gift giving time, it is more important than ever to remember the mantra: **Reduce, Reuse, Recycle**. There is usually so much household waste generated over the holidays, so do what you can do reduce your “waste footprint.”

### Gifts

1. Perhaps you could treat friends or work colleagues to a lunch instead of buying something they may not even want.
2. If you are buying a gift, think of something that your relatives or friends would like and would use.
3. Reuse gift bags, ribbon, etc.
4. Recycle used wrapping paper.
5. Email a holiday newsletter instead of sending a traditional card – it is more personal, tells your friends what you have been doing, and saves all that paper, and the truck and airplane pollution of shipping the cards all over the country.

### Parties

1. Opt for reusable, not disposable, dishes and cutlery.
2. Remember to put used paper napkins (and used paper plates if you have to use them) into the Green Bins for EDCO to pick up. Food stained paper is fine for the Green Bins.

### Holiday food

1. Buy the right size turkey or whatever is on your holiday menu.
2. Remember to scrape any food left on your plates into your Green Bin (or put in your kitchen caddy until your garbage day).

### Leftovers

1. Give away leftovers to guests (in reusable containers).
2. Use in next day dishes, soups, sandwiches.
3. Make stock from the bones in your turkey or chicken.
4. Freeze any extras that you will not eat right away. ■



# WHO BECOMES UNHOUSED?

*(Part 1 of a 2-part article)*

By Shirley King | Avenida Primavera

For five years I volunteered with Helping Hands at St. Peter's, a ministry that serves early morning meals to our local unhoused neighbors. The goal has been to provide the basics for survival and an entry to social service supports. Del Mar resident and social worker, Julie Kawasaki, and her social work student enrolled guests with health and food entitlement benefits, arranged health, mental health, and dental care referrals, and connected with County Outreach workers for housing navigation.

During the time of my service, eight of our guests became housed - either in project-based voucher senior housing programs, nonprofit permanent supportive senior housing, shared housing, long-term single-room occupancy hotels or veterans rent assistance housing. All had been unhoused for many years and were seniors.

What did I learn from the many conversations with my unhoused friends? I learned that anyone has the potential to become unhoused at some fracturing point in life, particularly when reaching one's senior years. Falling into homelessness is often preceded by successive vulnerabilities with health and mental health that disrupt work and income coupled with a weak safety net - loss of family members, inflating housing expenses, and our inadequate disability and social security benefits. Residing in a community with an evaporating housing stock is key to housing insecurity.

This is even more so for individuals leaving an institutional setting such as incarceration or jail, a lengthy hospitalization or rehab program, skilled nursing setting, and drug treatments facilities. These settings may neglect to have housing arranged and thus present the likelihood of becoming unsheltered.

Looking more closely at our unhoused guests at St. Peter's, it became evident to me that many had a local work history and suffered work injuries or had a catastrophic health event with no health benefits or disability insurance. Typically, they never had the privilege of generational wealth such as property ownership. The early death or estrangement from family members left many untethered. And the factor of race weighs heavily. Becoming unsheltered opened the flood of stressors that rapidly degraded health, mental health and psychological resilience.

Housing has become unavailable or unattainable for the low income. Our already prosperous community creates more wealth by inflating the cost of housing. The fundamental right to have a home has not been guaranteed in our country. But everyone's well-being requires secure housing to thrive.

Many individuals have been failed, and many communities such as Del Mar fail to contribute to real solutions. In the next issue, I will write about our seniors who become unhoused and how a community like Del Mar could respond. ■



by Ashley Simpkins, Executive Director

## Holiday Gratitude

The volunteers and staff of DMCC are grateful for the incredible community partners that sustain us throughout the year, but that support is especially apparent during the holiday season. The City of Del Mar provides us with a venue to hold our Annual Benefit Gala every October, and then again allows us to use City facilities to host the Cookies and Cocoa Holiday Party. The Del Mar Foundation provides DMCC with our longest-standing grant to run the Tuesday Lunch Connections (TLC) program twice monthly, and it's perhaps most appreciated when we serve turkey dinners during the Thanksgiving week TLC. The Del Mar Rose Society annually creates the Thanksgiving of Roses, in which they deliver gorgeous rose bouquets to Del Mar seniors who need a little extra holiday love. The Del Mar Garden Club organizes Project JOY, delivering a beautiful gift including a live plant to those seniors shortly before Christmas. The San Diego Seniors Community Foundation provides us with grant funding to help make our holiday outreach activities as special and inclusive as possible.

We hope to welcome 2024 with the same spirit of good will, strengthening our deep ties to community partners who care about the wellbeing of the rapidly growing number of older adults. We are also planning new and innovative opportunities that will be facilitated by our ever-expanding roster of talented and dedicated volunteers.

## Resolve to Rightsize

On Thursday January 11, 10am, at Del Mar Town Hall (1050 Camino Del Mar), DMCC will host speaker Jami Shapiro of senior move management company Silver Linings Transitions to talk about your "Resolution to Rightsize." In this educating and entertaining talk, Jami will discuss tackling your to-do list and taming your clutter to make 2024 a better year for your physical and mental health. She'll also delve into strategies for discarding items you are no longer using and give an overview of San Diego's resale market. If you're interested in attending, visit [www.dmcc.cc/calendar](http://www.dmcc.cc/calendar) to find the registration link.

## Volunteer of the Month - November

DMCC's Volunteer of the Month for November 2023 was Essential Transportation program volunteer Debbie Ershler, nominated by Transportation Committee Chair Judy Schuckit. Debbie frequently picks up van hosting shifts, helping seniors with mobility and vision challenges to navigate a shopping trip, and she does it with a very caring spirit.

DMCC programs and services depend on our incredible volunteers! To learn more about Debbie or becoming a DMCC volunteer, visit [dmcc.cc/volunteerofthemonth](http://dmcc.cc/volunteerofthemonth).

### **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). ■



# THE 4TH ANNUAL TURKEY SURF 2023

Photos by Harry Martin.



*11th Street Del Mar residents and locals gather to compete at the home grown 11th Street Surf Club's Turkey Surf.*





# 31ST ANNUAL RED NOSE RUN

Photos by Hylton Lonstein

Presented by Del Mar Foundation, and benefiting the San Dieguito River Park and Semper Fi and America's Fund, the 31st annual Red Nose Run was held on Saturday, Dec. 9, with approx. 600 people participating in the 5K or 3K Race/Walk. ■



thanks  
for your  
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Since 1997, **The Sandpiper** has been published and distributed for free by community volunteers, so we depend on your support. Our mission is to inform and engage local residents on issues and activities that are important to the community. And we are committed to preserving Del Mar's unique community character. We hope you will consider making a gift to support the Del Mar Community Alliance and The Sandpiper. Thank you!

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**There will be no print issue of the Sandpiper in January. However, the website will be updated regularly.**

<https://delmarsandpiper.org>

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<https://delmarsandpiper.org/signup/>

# DESAL COSTS SLASHED

By Don Mosier | Rimini Road

The Clean Energy Alliance (CEA) has signed an agreement with the San Diego County Water Authority to supply electricity to the Poseidon Desalination Plant in Carlsbad beginning in January 2025. The plant supplies about 10% of the water used by the region. The production of desalinated water is energy intensive, with the original design based on a baseline power consumption of 31.3 megawatts hours (mWh) per day with a total annual energy consumption of 246,000 mWh/year (or 246 gigaWh).

Recent modifications have reduced the baseline power level consumption by onsite regeneration, with a corresponding reduction in energy costs/year of almost \$12M. Switching power supply from SDG&E to CEA will provide additional savings as well as reducing greenhouse gas emissions from plant operations since the electricity provided by CEA is cleaner. When CEA service to the Poseidon plants begins, the plant will consume about 18% of the total CEA power load, much more than the power consumed by the City of Del Mar. □



Photo by Betty Wheeler.

## IN BRIEF

### ADU Rules

ADUs (granny flats) will be required to be used for dwelling purposes under new rules being adopted by City Council. Also addressed will be an incentive program for up to 15 low-income units. And finally, an amnesty program will forgive and legitimize existing rental units which have operated without permits.

## COMMENTARY

### WATERMARK: POLITICS VS POLICY

By Bud Emerson | Klish Way

The 50-unit Watermark project was found unanimously by the California Coastal Commission on November 17 to not "raise any substantial issue" regarding coastal access nor environmental harm, thereby ending appeals filed by neighbors. The project (near the roundabout), in the pipeline for over a decade, is now slated to be processed for a building permit with no additional public input or design review.

After years of public hearings and negotiations with neighbor opposition and resistance from two Council Members (Gaasterland and Druker), we are now at the likely endpoint with 50 rental units, including 10 affordable, four stories counting a parking podium (they decided against an option of adding even 15 more units).

As we reported last year, a smaller project was proposed for 38 units (for sale units plus at least 7 affordable units) with significant public benefits (including at least 4 affordable projects deeded to city/nonprofit ownership) but it would have required four Council votes. When it became apparent to the builder that Council Members Gaasterland and Druker were in opposition, they abandoned the process and resorted to the state's "By Right" provision which allows them to bypass local review. It is noteworthy that Gaasterland continued her opposition in a recent letter to the Coastal Commission.

Ironically, both Gaasterland and Druker later voted for the same level of density for the North Commercial area, but it was after getting votes from opponents during the election campaign.

Moral of the story: what is good for politics is not always good policy for the community. □



This image is from the California Coastal Commission's Exhibit No. 10 for its November 17, 2023 meeting, and shows "proposed conditions" taken from the Public View Analysis of the Watermark Del Mar Project, July 16, 2021."



# CHASING ELUSIVE VIRUS

By Don Mosier | Rimini Road

The XBB variant of the Omicron COVID virus lineage was the dominant cause of disease for most of 2023, and the new mRNA vaccines from Pfizer and Moderna released in September targeted this variant. Those of us that got one of these vaccines should be protected against serious consequence of COVID infection this winter.

A new report from Sweden (published in the British Medical Journal; BMJ 2023;383:e076990) examined the impact of prior vaccination on the incidence of long COVID in almost 300,000 vaccinated individuals compared with the same number of unvaccinated study participants. Protection against long COVID was dependent upon how many vaccine shots those in the vaccinated group had received. Protection was 21% for one dose, 59% for two doses, and 73% for three doses. Overall incidence of long COVID was 0.4% (1201/299,692) in the vaccinated cohort, a 70% reduction in risk compared to unvaccinated individuals. This is not a surprising result since prior vaccination reduces the risk of other serious consequences of COVID infection, but it is the first large study (required because of the low incidence of long COVID in this population) to document the level of protection. Yet another reason to keep getting new COVID vaccines (you did get at least 3 shots, right?).

The Omicron COVID virus lineage continues to evolve as it randomly mutates to evade immune responses. Much of the generation of new, immune evasive strains seems to take place during prolonged infection of individuals with some degree of impaired immune response. This was the origin of the original Omicron variant in South Africa in November of 2021 in a population with untreated or poorly treated HIV-1 infection. The XBB variant followed in late 2022, and now new COVID virus variants are appearing, as reported in a recent NY Times article (Carl Zimmer, NY Times, Nov. 21, 2023)

“In August, a variant called BA.2.86 emerged with a host of new mutations — likely the result, once again, of evolution taking place in an immunocompromised person. Over the past few months, however, the BA.2.86 lineage seems to have kicked into high gear, gaining a mutation that allows it to evade even more antibodies. JN.1, as this mutated form is known, has become the most resistant version of the coronavirus. It appears to be growing quickly in France, and it may soon spread to other countries.”

Because there are so many unvaccinated or immunocompromised hosts susceptible to new virus variants, continued evolution of the COVID virus is a certainty. Whether it will be JN.1 or a newer variant is uncertain, but it clear that COVID is here to stay and that a new vaccine formulation will be needed to protect against this ever changing virus. ■

# DOGS OF DEL MAR

## CODY

By Shirley King | Avenida Primavera

I have a new neighbor, his name is Cody, and he has created quite the buzz in the neighborhood. Cody, a lost and found two-month old puppy, is now living with my long-time neighbors, Jennifer and Steven McDowell.

He was discovered by Jennifer's good friend, Linda, who saw Cody, alone, following walkers in the canyon of the Torrey Pines Reserve Extension. He came with a large smear of white paint along his flank - perhaps a run-in with a new paint job. Luckily, he wandered into Linda's arms. Linda and Jennifer launched a good-old gum-shoe search, but no one came forward. It did not take long for Jennifer and Steven to be charmed. Jennifer made sure that her aging canine gal pal, Izzy, was agreeable.

Neighbors have been falling over themselves to catch a glimpse of Cody with his striking blue eyes and firmly erect and pointed ears. He has the best of his three ancestral lines. - Bull Terrier, German Shepherd and Siberian Husky (DNA testing helps to solve the mystery.)

Cody has brought out the big heartedness in our neighborhood - not just the gifts to him of training leads, leashes, puppy gates, crates, chew toys, but a converging spirit of sentimentality and renewal. Being able to gush over a puppy together and join neighbors in baby talk and belly rubs (just Cody's belly) emphasizes the essence of a neighborhood - enjoying life stages together.

Cody's name has an Irish origin meaning helper and companion. He is reminding us about the pleasures of being and having good neighbors. We all benefit from the help of our neighbors and companionship. And pets add another element of vitality. Welcome to your forever home, Cody. ■



*Izzy and Cody McDowell Photo by Shirley King.*



# ELECTRIC CHARGES ???

By Ann Feeney | Rimini Road

In the October Sandpiper, I described the income-graduated fixed charges for electricity that was mandated by state bill AB 205 that would take effect in the next year or two. This law mandates that there should be a set of fixed charges for electricity based on your income (in addition to charges for the amount of electricity that is used) but the law does not mandate how much the fixed fees should be for each income bracket.

The initial proposal by the investor-owned utilities (SDG&E, SoCal Edison and PG&E) for the pricing for the fixed charges for electricity were very high. Since then, the utilities and other groups have proposed lower fees. Very low-income customers (on CARE/FERA plan) will continue to have very low fees as they do now. As of the current round of proposals, the utilities propose a fixed charge of \$70/month, whereas Cal Public Advocates and another group have proposed a \$30/month fixed charge. That is much lower than the original proposals, so that is good news. However, those proposals are only for the next 1-2 years because AB 205 called for multiple income brackets, but there are complexities in that. How will the CPUC verify household income? Will they add up all the incomes of everyone living in a dwelling? How will they get that information? Since this is complex, there is likely to be a first version in which there will only be 2 brackets: very low-income CARE/FERA customers, and all others. But, subsequently a new set of fixed charges will be established with more income brackets in place as mandated by the state law.

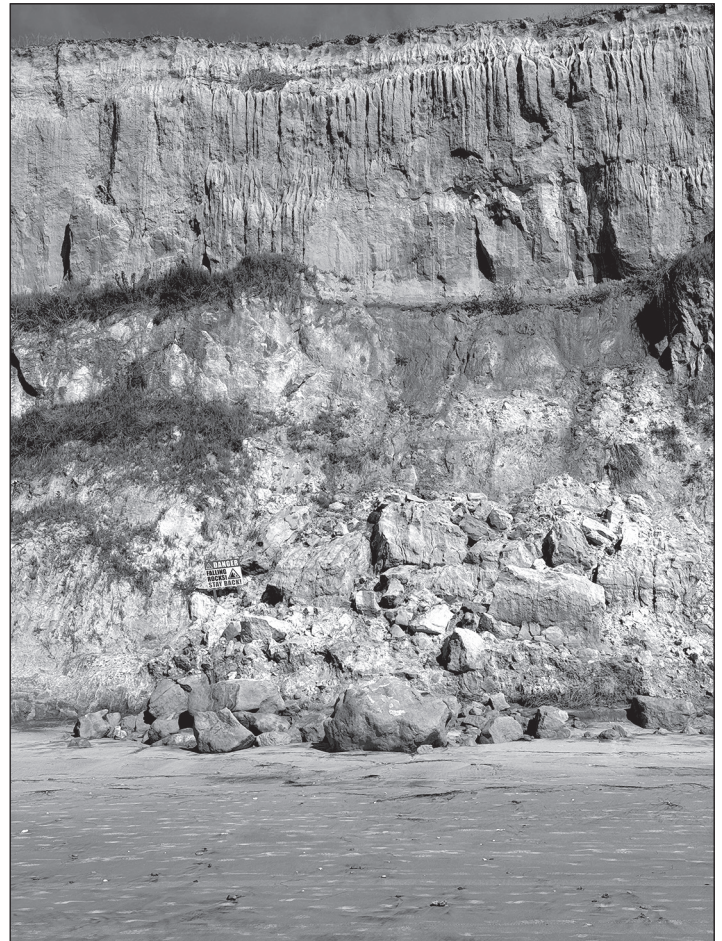
Even though the proposed fixed fees are lower than the very high fees initially proposed, these fees will raise the cost of electricity for low-income customers who are above the CARE/FERA thresholds and also for many middle-income customers. This fixed charge will penalize all those who are doing the right thing and conserving energy, or those who are conserving because they cannot afford higher electricity bills. The fees would also disincentivize rooftop solar installation and electrification, thus maintaining our high use of fossil fuels which contribute to the climate crisis.

The CPUC has until July to settle on the fees for this first round, so there is still time for these proposed fees to change again. Let's hope the CPUC and/or our state legislature continue to listen to the environmental justice groups and other advocates who have been raising an uproar about the proposed fixed fees. Stay tuned! ■

# DOWNWARD DANCE DISASTER

Photos by Julie Maxey-Allison

Day to day, week to week, month to month, year to year our cliffs keep on sliding into the sand below.





# LOCAL EXPERTS SPEAK TO CLIMATE CHANGE

By Dolores Davies Jamison | Crest Road

On November 12, an all-day symposium was held on “Adapting to Climate Change in Del Mar: Protecting Your Property and Our Community.” The event, which was sponsored by the Coalition for Adapting to Climate Change in Del Mar, was designed to provide residents and the City with the most recent research and insight on likely climate change impacts and how to best prepare for them.

While Del Mar is fortunate to be surrounded by abundant natural beauty—with its ocean, beaches, two lagoons, wetlands, canyons, and rare Torrey Pine trees—these valuable resources will continue to be impacted by climate change and will require mitigation and adaptation.

Symposium speakers included Scripps Institution of Oceanography scientists Ralph Keeling and Mark Merrifield, both of whom are experts on climate change. Keeling, who grew up in Del Mar, is the son of Dave Keeling, who pioneered measurement of carbon dioxide emissions and their accumulation in the atmosphere (now known as the Keeling Curve). Merrifield is the director of Scripps Oceanography’s Center for Climate Change Impacts and Adaptation.

According to Merrifield, considerable research has been underway on Del Mar beaches to measure bluff erosion and sea level rise impacts. In addition to sea level rise, atmospheric rivers—which have become more frequent—also wreak havoc on sand and accelerate bluff erosion. Scripps is developing an early warning system for bluff collapse and sees Del Mar as a test ground for adaptation.

Other significant climate change impacts that Del Mar and its residents should prepare for include wildfires. Of the 20 largest fires in California’s history, eight have occurred in the past three years. Rick Halsey, director of the California Chapparal Institute, argued that fire embers, which can travel for several miles, are the reasons most homes burn in wildfires. Jordan Villagomez, Fire Marshall for Del Mar, agreed that while maintaining defensive space around a residence is important, ensuring that your house has ember-resistant vents is paramount.

Also discussed at the symposium was the need for Del Mar to mitigate and adapt to impacts such as lagoon flooding and endangered habitat, as well as the need for tree preservation, and sustainable gardening. The symposium, which was made possible by a grant from the Del Mar Foundation, was recorded by Del Mar TV. Residents will be able to watch the symposium in the near future at:  
<http://delmarfoundation.org/> ■

## IN BRIEF

### Undergrounding Timeline

Timelines for the next two phases of the citywide undergrounding program have been set.

- Stratford Court between 4th and 12th streets will see removal of 56 poles near 464 residences between March and October 2024.
- Crest Canyon district is planned for removal of all poles between August 2024 and July 2025.

Funding for the entire city comes from a 2016 voter-approved one-cent sales tax.

### Unhousing the Ospreys

Alert: At the San Dieguito Lagoon ospreys may be unhoused because wires are being undergrounded and the poles that some use have been or are being taken down. There is a very active coalition of locals working to replace landing places for Osprey.



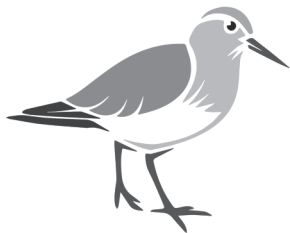
*Photos by John Weare.*

# VISIT THE SANDPIPER ONLINE!

## SANDPIPER

Del Mar Sandpiper  
1155 Camino Del Mar #436, Del Mar, CA 92014

DATED MATERIAL



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

### CRITTERS

## BIRD REWILDING

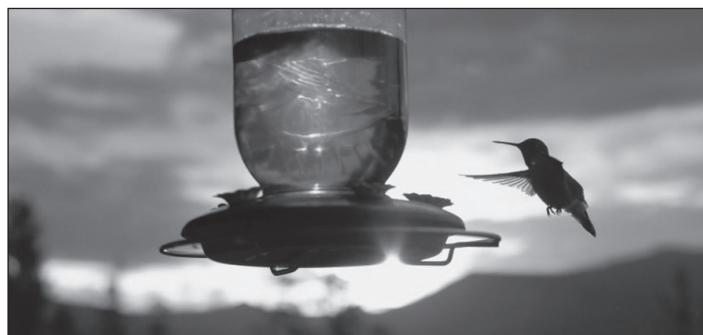
By Ed Mirsky | Hoska Drive

If you are quiet and still the Wrentit will poop on you.

When I go into the dining room in the morning, I see Allen's Hummingbird feeding at the flowers of a Cape Honeysuckle in a large pot on the deck. Often it is chased by the larger Anna's Hummingbird, but usually drives the Allen's off. Occasionally I see an Orange-crowned Warbler glean flowers and foliage for insects.

Elsewhere in the yard there are Song Sparrows bathing in the plant saucer I've partly filled with water, and often there may be other birds nearby taking a sand bath in a sandy area.

A pair of California Towhees that have lived in the yard for several years are scratching the ground near adjacent native plants. I've seen them carrying nesting material from the leaf litter, but haven't located the nest. Often there is a Spotted Towhee foraging in the leaf litter beneath a manzanita by kicking back with both feet to uncover insects and other



*Photo by David Feeney-Mosier.*

invertebrates, and seeds. The male sings from a nearby perch in spring. The Towhees feed in the leaf litter beneath the White Flowering Currant, and feast on its berries.

After breakfast I spread a handful of small bird seed in and around the leaf litter for the Dark-eyed Juncos. They are amazingly undisturbed by my presence, often allowing me to walk within a few feet of them. Lesser Goldfinch also eat small seeds and are often seen picking them from dried ovaries atop the flower stalks of Black Sage once the petals have fallen. Though rarely seen, I often hear Wrentits. They may nest in the yard. I hope so.

An unexpected Hermit Thrush spent most of the winter foraging in the Toyon and Lemonadeberry for insects and berries. Earlier in winter, migrating Cedar Waxwings feed on the berries.

I pause and reflect on the beauty of nature. I've truly reaped the benefits of rewilding. By the way, the Wrentit pooped on my shoulder.

While you're waiting for your native garden to mature, put up a hummingbird feeder and/or a seed feeder: See The Cornell Lab: Feeding Birds.

See the Plants & Animals Section of the San Dieguito Lagoon website ([sandieguitolagoon.org](http://sandieguitolagoon.org)) for links to species mentioned and gardening help. ■



*Spotted Towhee. Photo by Steve Brad.*