

Sandpiper

DEL MAR'S COMMUNITY JOURNAL

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FIVE DOWN, ONE TO GO

by Dwight Worden | Seaview Avenue

At its June 9th meeting, the 22nd DAA Board of Directors (the Fair Board), narrowed its consideration of a Fairgrounds site for the City of Del Mar to use for at least 61 units of affordable housing to a single site – the Surf and Turf RV Park located just east of Jimmy Durante Blvd. – eliminating all other potential sites that had previously been identified by the 22nd DAA from consideration. A formal Board action is expected at the August 2026 meeting to effectuate these decisions, but the June discussion was clear where the Board is headed.

The discussion that led to the narrowing of potential sites from six to just one occurred after a staff presentation and Board discussion of an extensive (1,763 page) feasibility study conducted by a consultant, Harris & Associates, under a \$1.5 million Housing Acceleration Program grant obtained by the City of Del Mar from SANDAG to study potential affordable housing sites on Fairgrounds property. The study evaluated five sites under objective criteria, including lease agreement timing, potential financial feasibility and eligibility for tax credit financing, environmental constraints, ability to be implemented per state and local requirements, no associated conflicts with fairgrounds operations and events, and public health, safety, and security concerns.

Significantly, the feasibility study deemed three sites located in the City of Del Mar to be feasible under all of the objective criteria, but deemed the Surf and Turf RV Park site to meet all of the criteria except for the ability to execute a lease agreement within the time frame required by Del Mar's state-certified 6th Cycle Housing Element ("6th Cycle HE").

The DAA Board expressed its intent to eliminate from consideration all of the sites located in the City of Del Mar. Because the RV Park is located in the City of San Diego, there are significant hurdles for Del Mar to get credit from the State for any affordable housing built there, likely pushing the project beyond the deadlines in the 6th Cycle HE.



Screenshot from June 9, 2026 22nd DAA board meeting.

The Fair Board's discussion on June 6 indicated that further consideration of the RV Park site will go forward only if the City of San Diego indicates a willingness for the credit for housing on that site to go to the City of Del Mar. Ted Miyahara, a recent appointee to the DAA Board with extensive background in affordable housing as President & CEO of the San Diego Community Housing Corporation, noted that annexation of the property could potentially be required for the City of Del Mar to get credit, and that could involve a lengthy process.

22nd DAA CEO Becky Bartling emphasized that the staff report on this matter recommends support of this location "as long as the existing RV park is relocated to a similar location of the same size and scope of what currently exists." Relocating the RV park could be a significant additional barrier.

Based on the June 9 discussion, it is anticipated that the August 12 meeting of the DAA Board will determine whether the affordable housing effort by the City of Del Mar and the 22nd DAA will continue, focused solely on the Surf and Turf RV Park site, or will be officially ended by the 22nd DAA Board. ■

COUNCIL QUALS

An important election to restore the Del Mar City Council to its full 5 members is coming this fall. The two winning candidates will help fill the void left by the resignation of former Councilmember Dwight Worden and the frequent 2:2 voting deadlock that resulted.

The Sandpiper believes that voters should think carefully about the characteristics that make Del Mar Councilmembers most effective for the city and the region. Here are some that we think are important:

- The ability and patience to listen to and respect other opinions before reaching a decision
- To understand the delicate task of distinguishing personal opinions from the Council consensus when making public comments
- To understand and adhere to the ethical constraints faced by public officials, including avoiding actions that seem to favor themselves or specific donors
- The thoughtful representation of Del Mar's interests when serving on regional boards or committees
- A willingness to meet with constituents and respond to their concerns in a thoughtful and transparent way
- To understand the role of the City Council in setting policy and the City Manager in implementing that policy
- Experience in leadership roles and knowledge of city governance gained by serving on advisory committees
- A commitment to spend the amount of time required to review and understand the many governance issues that come before the City Council (more than most new candidates imagine)
- An appreciation of Del Mar's history and the importance of our Community Plan
- To aggressively seek input from community members, especially our conscientious advisory committees
- To provide leadership with a long-term perspective that helps citizens who have difficulty seeing beyond short-term problems
- To abide by the Del Mar election guidelines regarding civility, donations, and signage

Future issues of the Sandpiper will feature statements from City Council candidates. We will see how well they measure up to these standards. ▢



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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, Hylton Lonstein, Julie Maxey-Allison, Don Mosier, Betty Wheeler. *All editors, writers, and photographers are volunteers.* Email: editor@delmarsandpiper.org

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The Sandpiper's Leadership Donors

Over the years, hundreds of Del Mar citizens have donated generously to the Del Mar Community Alliance (DMCA) in support of the Sandpiper. Since 2018, more than \$296,000 has been contributed by Del Mar citizens, making it possible to bring the Sandpiper to every Del Mar family at no cost, via their mailboxes and online. The list below represents the community's cumulative leadership giving to DMCA between 2018 and February 13, 2026. Thank you!

Joel Holliday Circle (\$5,000+)

Jeff Barnouw, remembering Dagmar Barnouw | Rosanne Rennie Holliday and Joel Holliday* | Lynn and Charlie Gaylord Rod Franklin | Bud and Mary Ann Emerson | Maryka and George Hoover* | Betty Wheeler and Dwight Worden | Mary and Jeff Friestedt | Judd and Susan Halenza | Louise Keeling and Ralph Keeling | Ann Feeney and Don Mosier | Suzi Resnick and Stan Marks | Patricia and Marc Brutton

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**In Memoriam*

ARTFUL LIBRARY

by Julie Maxey-Allison | 10th Street

New to our Del Mar Library: art displays. The inaugural show features framed posters created by internationally known artist Françoise Gilot for “SYMPHONY AT SALK” concerts 1996-2023. The show is sponsored by the Salk Institute, the Del Mar Foundation, and the library.



Photo: Julie Maxey-Allison

When Françoise Gilot was a 21 year old art student in Paris, she met Pablo Picasso and lived with him for the next decade. They had two children, Claude and Paloma, and were part of the artists circle of Matisse, Braque and Cocteau. In time Gilot left Picasso, wrote the book “Life With Picasso” and, eventually, met and married Jonas Salk “combining art and science” (quoting Jonas Salk). Gilot worked locally in many mediums all her life. Her work is in many collections and in the Metropolitan Museum in New York and the Centre Pompidou in Paris among institutions. ■

REMEMBERING GARY WILSON (1951–2026)

Through a distinguished 37-year career in San Diego County, Gary Wilson served as an educator, principal, and superintendent. He is perhaps best remembered as the deeply beloved principal of Del Mar Academy of Arts and Science as well as Torrey Hills and Ocean Air Elementary Schools, where he led from 1992 to 2009. ■

FEED THE KIDS

Step Up: Snack Food Drive

by Shirley King | Avenida Primavera

Del Mar residents, in partnership with Amigas De Tias Immigrant Support and Encinitas 4 Equality, will hold a food collection drive on Saturday, July 4th from 8 to 9 A.M. at the Del Mar Civic Center Plaza at Camino del Mar and 11th Street.

This summer, 100 school-aged children in North County need extra nutrition support when school breakfast and lunch services are not available. Their families have been affected by immigration policies and detention actions, and for them federal supplemental food assistance has vanished. These children are suffering severe consequences.

Healthy snack foods to energize these children during their summer activities are requested. We are collecting: applesauce pouches or cups, chewy breakfast/granola bars, Mac and Cheese cups, ramen noodles, veggie straws, trail/nut packs, peanut butter packets, peanut butter/cheese crackers and juice boxes.

Most of these items are easily available at local stores such as Smart and Final and Sprouts.

Drop off your donations where our team will be ready and waiting at the Del Mar Civic Center Plaza, or we can pick up from your house. Park at the Civic Center and join the July 4th parade which starts at 9 A.M. at the Powerhouse Park.

Let's make Independence Day a celebration for every child in our community. ■



Cats napping between undergrounding jobs on Crest.
Photo: Julie Maxey-Allison

COMMENTARY: WAR ON SCIENCE

by Don Mosier | Rimini Road

As a young scientist, I spent 6 years working in a laboratory at the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases (NIAID), first as a Fellow and subsequently as a Senior Investigator. My laboratory was just down the hall from Dr. Tony Fauci's, who soon became Director of NIAID, a position he held for a record 38 years until his retirement in 2022. NIAID is the second-largest of the NIH institutes (second only to the National Cancer Institute) and had a 2024 budget of \$6.5 billion, funding important basic and clinical research into infectious diseases, including influenza, COVID, HIV, measles, and Ebola, at universities and research institutes across the nation. My own laboratory relied on NIAID grant funding from 1978 until my retirement from Scripps Research Institute in 2016. So, it should be no surprise that I value the impact that NIAID has made on understanding and developing treatments for multiple infectious diseases. I am appalled at recent events directed at NIAID leadership in apparent retribution for Dr. Fauci's actions during the COVID pandemic.

A recent issue of the journal *Science* reported a sad fact: "The NIAID currently faces a massive leadership vacuum, as the Trump administration has ousted or reassigned eight

of its ten top leadership slots. Former acting director Jeffery Taubenberger stepped aside in May 2026, following the earlier firing of director Jeanne Marrazzo and the ousting of the institute's top scientists."

Many of the ousted leadership team were Fauci's trainees, a fact that suggests an attack on his scientific legacy. No other NIH institute has faced such harsh measures.

Another recent issue of *Science* reported that: "The NIH's highly regarded Vaccine Research Center (VRC) once had a roughly 400-person workforce that helped develop and clinically test vaccines and antibody treatments for Ebola and a host of dangerous infectious diseases. Now, after a steady firing of key contractors by President Donald Trump's administration, VRC is reeling." The VRC is a branch of NIAID.

We are watching a disaster unfold. Instead of preparing for current or future epidemics, this administration's unqualified appointees are dismantling the institutions and expertise needed for us to prepare and, literally, to survive. These actions are pettiness wrapped in stupidity. We and our children and our grandchildren will suffer because of this madness. It is time to demand a return to sanity. ■

IN BRIEF

TORREY PINES' NARROW ESCAPE

Last late May, fire scorched and blackened sections of more than 18,300 acres of Santa Rosa Island, an ancestral Chumash land with cultural ties going back more than 13,000 years, and the only other location favored by the rare Torrey Pine outside of our own area. Though some pines were burned, many remain, according to reports, largely intact. Known as California's Galapagos, the rugged and remote Channel Island is home to some 46 plants and animals found nowhere else on earth—including the island fox and deer mice that evolved into separate subspecies on the island. In time, Burned Area Emergency Response (BAER) specialists will evaluate the extent of the damage, the stability of soil, water, and future threats to cultural and natural resources to begin the process of recovery.

CSIDE

by Julie Maxey-Allison | 10th Street

A new coastal boutique, CSIDE, has opened with collections of local and well known designers. Owner Laurel Goldstein offers breezy clothes and accessories. 1555 Camino Del Mar, #325. ■ 858-209-3097.



Photo: Julie Maxey-Allison

THANK YOU!

by Tom Neuman MD | DMF President

In last month's column, we shared the lineup for the 2026 Summer Twilight Concerts. This month, we would like to say **THANK YOU!** to the sponsors and DMF donors whose generosity help bring these concerts to our community. The 2026 Summer Twilight Concerts sponsors are:

PATRON LEVEL

Sharon & Richard Bockoff: Long time supporters of concerts. Sharon previously served on DMF board.

La Costa Glen: Senior living community located in Carlsbad, operated by Del Mar resident Warren Spieker.

SUPPORTER LEVEL

Capstone Advisors: Commercial real estate development & management. 3rd year sponsor.

D'Arcy Capital: Del Mar-based wealth management firm. Long time sponsors and DMF supporters.

Del Mar Car Care: Local, complete auto care since 1910. 3rd year sponsor.

Jake's Del Mar: Stalwart supporter of many Del Mar community events, including long time twilight concerts sponsor.

Monarch Ocean Pub: Host of DMF events such as recent "Meet & Greet." 3rd year sponsor.

Poseidon On the Beach: Stalwart supporter of many Del Mar community events, including long time twilight concerts sponsor.

Rande Turner Collective: Luxury residential real estate. Great supporter of DMF. 3rd year sponsor.

Seagrove Parking (LAZ): Parking lot operator. Past sponsor, returning this year.

OPENING ACT SPONSOR

Coral Del Mar: Since opening just over 1 year ago, the restaurant has stepped up to sponsor the opening acts for the twilight concerts.

In addition to these sponsors, the **County of San Diego** has, once again, given DMF a Community Enhancement Grant to support the concerts.

RAFFLE PRIZES

A raffle takes place at each concert, with all proceeds going toward concert costs. This year's raffle donors include: Board & Brew, Del Mar Pizza, En Fuego Cantina, Jake's, Monarch Ocean Pub, Poseidon On the Beach, Robin Peters in Salon Republic, Rusty Del Mar, Sbicca, Tamarindo, Stratford Square. If you're at the concerts, we encourage you to purchase some tickets.

Finally, there are many DMF donors whose continued generosity is critical to our being able to bring these concerts and so much more to the community we love.

THANK YOU TO ALL!

by Ashley Simpkins | Executive Director

Meet the New Chief and Learn to Prepare for Wildfires

On Monday July 6 at 11am, DMCC and Solana Beach Community Connections will welcome new Fire Chief Bret Davidson at Del Mar Town Hall. He'll be there to meet the community and make a presentation about Wildfire Preparedness.

Chief Davidson comes to the Cities of Solana Beach and Del Mar from the City of Vista with 39 years of fire service experience. Born and raised in San Diego County, he began his career in 1986 in Pine Valley. Over the course of his career, he has served with fire departments in El Centro, Poway, and Rancho Santa Fe and previously participated in cooperative regional efforts with the coastal communities. Chief Davidson holds an Associate of Science in Fire Science, a Bachelor of Science in Public Safety Administration and a Master of Arts in Human Resource Management. He is currently pursuing a Doctor of Education in Instructional Design. In addition, Chief Davidson has earned a Public Leadership Credential from the Harvard Kennedy School and a Certificate of Leader Development from the U.S. Army War College.

Scam Jam 2026: The Psychology of Scams

Did you know elder fraud scams led to more than \$160 million in reported losses in San Diego County in 2025? Join DMCC, AARP California, and San Diego County Aging and Independence Services at Del Mar Town Hall on Tuesday July 28 for an interactive session focused on recognizing, preventing, and reporting fraud. Go beyond the details of the most common scams and gain knowledge that will help you no matter which scams rise in popularity. Learn how scammers manipulate emotions, practice spotting red flags, and strengthen your fraudprevention toolkit.

Volunteer of the Month – May

DMCC's Volunteer of the Month for May 2026 was Jennifer Fry. Jen is a member of DMCC's Public Relations Committee, which is responsible for overseeing DMCC's communications and community outreach efforts. Jen was recognized because she was a cornerstone in planning the inaugural (and wildly successful) Del Mar Senior Fair. Board member Tanya Young said "Jen welcomed every visitor, was a DMCC ambassador to the nonprofit exhibitors, and made sure that all events proceeded apace."

DMCC programs and services depend on our incredible volunteers! To learn more about Jen or opportunities to help our Public Relations Committee, visit dmcc.cc/volunteerofthemonth.

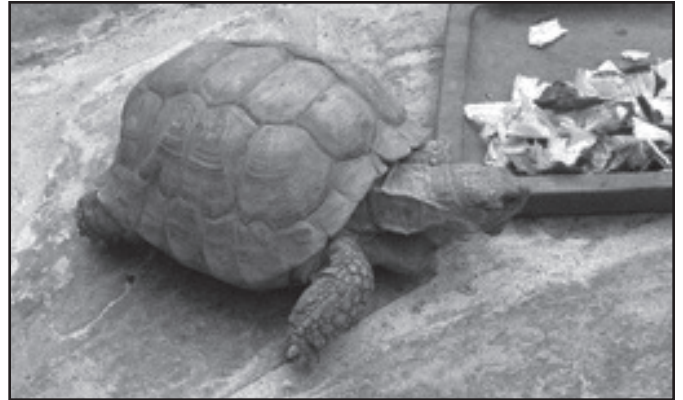
For more information, visit our website at dmcc.cc or contact us at (858) 792-7565 or dmcc@dmcc.cc.

NEW DIGS FOR DUM DUM

by Julie Maxey-Allison | 10th Street

A Mojave Desert tortoise (*Gopherus agassizii*) is and has been a Del Mar resident for 60 years. His ancestors' descendants lived around the southwest, west of the Colorado, for millions of years. This tortoise is a turtle; it belongs to the land-dwelling family of Testudinidae, whereas other families of turtles (who aren't tortoises), terrapins and sea turtles, live most of their lives in the water.

Our local, Dum Dum aka DD, is 65 with 15 to 35 more years to go. He is a lucky guy. His first home was with Tensia Trejo who found him wandering her neighborhood as a young tortoise. He recently moved in with his new care taker Carol Kerridge. He has his very own ADU and a lovely garden to wander and explore. Carol reports that in addition to his daily meal of romaine lettuce, broccoli and kale, he has preferences and routines. He comes to his door when he wants out and, if placed in what he considers an undesirable spot, he hisses. He is partial to wind (the dryer vent is a favorite), and musical wind chimes. He likes to dig and is ever on the look out for an escape route with the exuberance of a full blown 2 year old boy: independent, willful, fearless. He did manage to vanish, causing a stir in the neighborhood. He avoided detection for over a week by hiding in a secret spot behind a rock covered with bushes. He may be sporting a "find my" tortoise air tag soon.



Dum Dum. Photo: Julie Maxey-Allison

Though DD has some territory in which to roam most tortoise kin have seen their wild living space vastly reduced due to land development. That and the fact that they are threatened by human interaction—most notably off-roading vehicles who run them over—threaten their existence. As their population dwindles, the tortoises don't reproduce until they are between 15 and 20 years old. Females lay eggs only once or twice in the spring and summer and a mere 2% of their hatchlings live to adulthood. These tortoises, who have existed for millions of years, were jumped from the threatened to the endangered species list in 2024. It is time to take note and take care of tortoises wherever they live to help insure survival. ■



Lilli Del Mar getting set up for opening. Photo: Julie Maxey-Allison



Bluffs work goes on. Photo: Julie Maxey-Allison

A STRAY NO MORE

by Brandy Shaw | Seaview Avenue

Hi! You don't know me yet, but I'm a female calico cat (a very cute one, I might add), and I just moved to my forever home in Del Mar! Let me tell you my history - which isn't much, I'm afraid. I'm very well behaved, so I must have had a home. But in February, I was designated a stray by the Animal Friends of the Valleys located in Wildomar. I was brought to Rancho Coastal Humane Society in Encinitas, that's where my story really begins. After being microchipped and spayed, I was recovering in the medical building when a woman entered and sat down on the floor. She spoke softly, rubbed my head, and I knew she was a nice person. She stayed with me for quite a while, but then she left; I was devastated. I was sure we were meant to be together. What I didn't know at the time was that she left to sign the adoption papers (it was Valentine's Day) and ready the house for me! The very next day, she came back and brought me to my new home in Del Mar.

Every day, my new Mom (Donna Shaw) takes good care of me. In the morning (even before she has her coffee), she sits on the steps from the bedroom, and I sit on her lap; she pets and hugs me and talks nicely to me (and I talk to her, too). I just love this morning ritual! Then we play with my toys. Mom throws the toy, I chase after it, pounce, and then Mom picks up the toy and throws it for me repeatedly until I need a short nap, and Mom finally gets her coffee. Like most cats, I love this game! During the day, I run up and down the stairs, look out the windows at the birds, plants, and dogs walking by the house. Of course, I also take cat naps. If Mom goes outside, I watch her from the window and sit by the door until she gets back. If she takes the car, I'm always at the top of the stairs to greet her when she returns.

My life in Del Mar might not sound very exciting to you, but for me, once a lost little cat, I wouldn't trade it for anything. ▣



Brandy. Photo: Donna Shaw

LETTER TO THE EDITOR: NO TO CITIZEN VOICES

Two public hearings, no opportunity to state one's case!

The Edison Community Engagement Panel, is anything but engagement.

My colleague Nina Babiaz and I registered for the June 4th CEP meeting on zoom.

My name was listed on the speaker list, and hers was not. I was skipped over and I was never called to speak. My colleague was not on the list and had her hand raised for 3 hours. I was on the meeting for 3 hours and hand raised the for last 20mins.

Charles Langley from Public WatchDogs advised the CEP Chair, Dan Stetson, that we were waiting to speak, but he abruptly ended the meeting. 3 hours of our time wasted.

(The Edison CEP meetings are paid for through the Nuclear Decommissioning fund by us, the rate payers.)

The San Diego June 11th California Coastal Commission was no better.

Two colleagues and I attended in person, spoke and tried to hold the attention of the commissioners. Several of who were busy on their phones, eating & talking amongst themselves.

I asked Vice Chair, Caryl Hart, who was leading the meeting, to have a word about responsibility & decorum with the commissioners and she said she "could not as they are volunteers."

To my knowledge this is not true. Although they are not full time employees the commission is made up evenly of members of the public & state appointees. All are paid per diem to attend hearings or while conducting official commission business.

Regardless, this is very rude, discourages public participation and defeats the purpose of a public hearing, again paid for by us, the tax payers.

Where can our voices be heard if not at a public hearing?

Alice McNally
Stratford Court

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SANDPIPER

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

DATED MATERIAL



www.delmarsandpiper.org

BLUE GUM GONE

by Barbara Aufiero | 9th Street

Taking down our Blue Gum Eucalyptus tree was not an easy decision.

It was a heartbreaking decision to remove our tree, but scientific evidence and expert advice supported it. Since September 2024, we kept a steady vigil on the health of our Blue Gum Eucalyptus after bright yellow fungal blooms appeared at its base. According to tree experts, this was a sign that beneath the surface lay decayed roots.

Nearly two years later, the yellow blooms had spread around two-thirds of the tree's base, and additional roots had been damaged by the Undergrounding Project. The verdict from three tree specialists was the same: our tree was dying. One expert described it as a "whole tree failure."

How do you accept the loss of a fully mature tree? It was our gentle giant. It stood as a majestic being with peeling bark revealing waves of pastel colors beneath, standing guard over our home. Its silhouette, more still than Buckingham Palace guards, framed our kitchen window.

It was a hunting ground for hummingbirds searching the canopy for insects among the crescent-shaped leaves. In the early evenings, a hawk would perch silently, watching and waiting for prey. So much life lived within its branches. So much loss.



Photo: Julie Maxey-Allison

And now, after two days of saws buzzing and branches being dismantled, we look out onto a blank canvas. A barren view that feels empty and painful, a sympathetic ache of a lost limb, except the limb was an entire tree.

It is natural to question our decision. The reasoning was sound — the risk of the tree falling onto our home, our neighbor's home, or the street was too great to ignore.

We mourn the loss of our Blue Gum, but we are grateful for the years of beauty, shelter, and life it gave us. ▣