

# SANDPIPER

## Shores Campaign a Step Closer

By Barbara Mandel Pache

The Campaign for Del Mar Shores made its fourth of five escrow payments on January 15, moving a step closer to purchasing the Del Mar Shores School property for the City of Del Mar, and preserving the last parcel for open space, recreational and educational purposes. The last hurdle requires all of our help and commitment.

This latest \$1.45 million payment brings the total of funds raised and committed to \$4.5 million of the total \$8.5 million needed to purchase the property from the Del Mar School District. Escrow is expected to close on February 28, 2008. It also marks the kickoff of the general community fundraising campaign to garner the remaining \$4 million, under the respected leadership of co-chairs Laura DeMarco, Joe Sullivan, and Winston School headmaster Mike Peterson.

The School District agreed to the sale with an aggressively short escrow period. The Campaign launched in late July with just eight months to raise the full purchase price. Early contributors providing lead gifts have included Louise Ukleja, the Holliday Family Foundation, the Big Blue Sky Foundation, Albert & Gaye Hugo-Martinez, Art Nicholas, Laura and Ralph DeMarco, Carl and Sharon Hilliard, Nate McCay, the Filanc family, Jim Watkins, Bob and Darcy Bingham, Paul and Sue Hannam, Paul Musco, and Mike Roston, to name a few.



Now it's time for everyone to get involved, contribute, talk about the Shores property with friends, increase the buzz, and make sure that we retain this precious jewel for community use. The alternative: if the community is unable to close escrow with the School District, the District will have the right to sell the property to private developers for another condo or commercial project. The Shores Property is the only open space on the south side of town, and with its pristine ocean view, softball, baseball and soccer fields, it is a gem too precious to lose.

The Winston School, a private not-for-profit school providing an excellent academic experience for children with learning differences, has called the Shores home for the past 19 years. Their board of directors and parents have committed to raising up to half of the funds needed,

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*A real Del Mar Valentine, see "Sips & Tidbits, page 7.*



*Never too young to support our firefighters, see page 6.*



*Will our sewage system connect to San Elijo? See page 4.*

## Unity in the Community

The Shores campaign is an opportunity for all of us to come together as a community to add to our wonderful legacy of generation-bridging assets. Previous generations of Del Marians have proven to be far-sighted and generous in preserving community assets. We now enjoy our parks, library, lagoon, canyons, and open space

because they seized opportunities to shape the future. Del Mar's reputation as a desirable place to live is built upon our fine balance of man-made and natural resources.

Adding five acres of recreation, education, and open space to our inventory will be a powerful message about our core values to our children and grandchildren. Our vision is that every single household will communicate its good-will involvement in this community-building endeavor. Contributions at all levels will be valued equally. This is our generation's opportunity to shape Del Mar's future. Time is short. Please add your voice to all of your neighbors with a generous contribution this month.

## Shores

*Continued from page 1*

and have done an outstanding job to date. The lead \$1 million gift from Louise Ukleja was a result of their efforts. The Winston School is planning to lease space for another 55 years, and will additionally raise funds needed to renovate the original buildings. Their fundraising efforts will be credited to their lease payments.

Who uses the Shores Property now? 1,200 Little League and club softball and baseball players. Our Sharks soccer teams. Area families taking their dogs for a romp. Families enjoying a picnic out on the grass on a lazy afternoon. Those of us driving down Camino del Mar anxious to take a last peak at the ocean before heading to work.

Who will use the Shores in the future? All of us, our children and our grandchildren. The opportunity to purchase this property is a once-in-a-lifetime offer. If we miss this chance, we won't have it again.

The community has come together numerous times in the past to preserve what makes Del Mar great. The Del Mar Library, Powerhouse Park and Community Center, and Seagrove Park are all enjoyed by community members today because we came together, contributed



to the best of our abilities, and assured that Del Mar will remain the beautiful, scenic and recreational community that brought and kept us here. Let's do it again and preserve the Shores School Property for open space and recreational and educational purposes for perpetuity.

What do we have to lose if we as a community do not raise the remaining \$4 million by the time escrow is set to close? The beauty and tranquility of this gem at 9th and Camino del Mar. A place for our children to learn and enjoy sports. An educational treasure. And what would we get? More congestion and traffic. Potentially structures that would shroud our ocean view. Private enjoyment, private profit. It's a choice we make by our actions.

You can make a contribution today on the website, [www.delmarparks.com](http://www.delmarparks.com) or [www.thewinstonschool.com](http://www.thewinstonschool.com). Contributions of cash, or appreciated stock are appreciated. And if you can make a pledge for a later payment, that's appreciated too. For more information, call campaign co-chair Joe Sullivan at 354-4311 or Mike Peterson, Winston School Headmaster at 259-8155. The Winston School, a qualified 501(c)(3) non-profit, is graciously serving as fiscal agent for the Campaign, and checks can be sent to: Campaign for Del Mar Shores, The Winston School, 215 9th St., Del Mar. The February 28 deadline is right around the corner, so please act today!

*Barbara Mandel Pache is a resident of Del Mar.*

**DEL MAR'S COMMUNITY NEWSPAPER**

**SANDPIPER**

The Sandpiper is published by the Del Mar Community Alliance, a not-for-profit corporation. 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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All staff members and writers are unpaid volunteers. This publication depends upon the contributions of readers like you.

Make checks payable to **Sandpiper**, Box 2177, Del Mar, CA 92014

# What to Do about Downtown Blight?

Final part of a series on Del Mar's commercial zone

By Wayne Dernetz

What's happening to our downtown? In previous articles we examined some important indicators on the economic health of the commercial ("CC") zone, the land running along both sides of Camino del Mar from 9th to 15th Streets. We found the land area is divided into 63 small parcels. These parcels are owned by relatively few investors and family trusts whose interests appear limited to cash flow. These long-term owners enjoy relatively low property taxes and high rents. The CC zone generates disproportionately low property taxes compared to the balance of community. Sales-tax revenue from area businesses, reflecting total sales, has fallen steadily over several years. In economic terms, the CC zone is a drag on our community.

Signs of physical blight also are increasing within the CC zone. Many pedestrian areas and sidewalks are cracked and broken. Along portions of Camino del Mar, pedestrians and vehicles compete for the same space. Landscaped medians, installed in the 1960s, need refurbishment. Many private buildings need renovation. New development within the area has been virtually nonexistent for many years. Even the City's own administration facility adds to the blighted appearance of our downtown.

These deteriorating economic and physical conditions easily satisfy the definition of "urban blight" under California's Redevelopment Law. But with its worsening financial condition, the City can barely keep up with downtown maintenance needs, let alone undertake new improvements. Can anything be done to improve this state of affairs? Or is our downtown doomed to morph slowly into just a bleak corridor of small offices paying high rents to (mostly) absentee landlords?

The answer depends on us – the residents. Working through our city government, we hold the key to turning this decline around, albeit gradually, not suddenly. It can be accomplished by applying a more effective planning tool, the specific plan, to the area.

Specific planning was first introduced by the California Legislature in 1984. Soon thereafter, specific plans were employed to resolve long-standing community disputes over the redevelopment of the Del Mar Hotel property (now L'Auberge) and the Del Mar Plaza. But State guidelines for specific planning were not issued until after specific plans for L'Auberge and Del Mar Plaza were approved. Though effective, those early plans did not take full advantage of the available authority.

Under State law, a specific plan combines both general and precise planning with implementation measures, all in the same policy document. According to the Legislature, the exact purpose of a specific plan is to implement the general plan in a given area. A specific plan for our downtown would not change our Community Plan; it would identify ways to bring about the policies and vision of our Community Plan.



Through a specific plan, the density, height, bulk and other dimensional limitations of new and redeveloped structures in the area may be determined. The precise location and definition of uses within buildings may be defined. Needed public improvements, including new landscaping, pedestrian walkways, and other public areas may be designed, along with identifying the means to finance them. Standards for new construction, including design criteria, signing and façade improvements may be included. New regulations, enforcement measures and other programs necessary for implementation may be added. Every conceivable detail deemed necessary to carry out the Community Plan vision may be identified and included within a downtown specific plan.

An approved specific plan offers important benefits to property owners, as well. New opportunities and requirements for redevelopment of each property would be identified and the procedures for approval within the specific plan framework would be streamlined. Along with reduced time, costs and risks of the application procedures, property values would be enhanced. Private redevelopment would be encouraged. New opportunities for financing public improvements through public funding or public/private partnerships could be identified.

By law, a specific plan is prepared and reviewed in the same manner as a general plan – under direction of the City Council – and may be submitted to the voters for approval. Ideally, defining the plan's objectives and reaching agreement on implementation would involve representatives of landowners, business owners and residents, as interested parties. Depending on the scope and complexity of issues, it could take from two to five years, and competent guidance, to prepare a quality specific plan.

But as occurred during the preparation of our Community Plan in the 1970s, merely undertaking a specific plan could revitalize the community and bring about new levels of cooperation among the City, property and business owners and residents. Our choices are simple. We can continue witnessing the gradual and ongoing decline of our downtown, or we can start now toward implementing the vision for our downtown in our Community Plan.

*Wayne Dernetz is a resident of Del Mar.*



# Laura Parker: LEEDing the way

By Betty Wheeler

Environmentally-conscious home construction has a strong local advocate in Del Mar general contractor Laura Parker, who is building (on 11th St.) one of the first two houses in San Diego County slated to be certified as “green” under the LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) for Homes Green Building Rating System of the U.S. Green Building Council.

Intended to reduce the environmental impact of residential homes, the LEED system assesses the full range of factors involved in the design, construction and operation of residential buildings, including water and energy efficiency, the efficient use of sustainable materials, construction waste reduction, indoor air quality, and environmentally sensitive siting. With an average of 8,000 pounds of waste resulting from construction of a new house, the potential for reducing the environmental impact of homebuilding is evident, particularly when sustainability is a focus at each step of the process.

With a point system that rates eight different resource categories, LEED for Homes certification can be obtained at four levels: certified, silver, gold and platinum. Parker says she is aiming for gold for this house. She notes that



the LEED system “really dings you for size”; this house will be about 2600 square feet, including basement. (The average American house size has more than doubled since the 1950s, reaching an average of 2,422 sq. ft. in the West by 2005, according to the National Association of Home Builders.)

Parker, who owns Del Mar Restoration, is clearly enjoying the significant learning curve involved in revamping every aspect of home design and construction to incorporate as many cutting-edge “green” methods and materials as possible. The process involves retraining for everyone on the team: architects, general contractors like herself, subcontractors, crewmembers and landscapers (and clients, no doubt). Her conversation is liberally sprinkled with references to little-known building materials like Syndcrete (a lightweight concrete with recycled glass, shells, and other nontraditional and recycled materials); Kirei, a sorghum stalk-based product that can be used in wallboards, countertops, and cabinetry doors; and insulation made from recycled jeans.

With an estimated June 2009 completion date, the Del Mar community can look forward to an unusual open house next year, and in the interim, to the opportunity to watch this experiment in green unfold.

*Betty Wheeler is a resident of Del Mar.*

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## San Elijo

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Del Mar signed an agreement with San Diego for treating and discharging its municipal wastewater through San Diego’s deepwater outfall at Point Loma. In 1974, with federal and state grants, Del Mar completed construction of the 21st Street pumping station and the trunk line connecting its sewer system to San Diego’s Metropolitan System. Del Mar then closed its own aging treatment plant, ending decades of polluting discharges into San Dieguito Lagoon.

But San Diego has engaged in a long-running dispute with federal regulators over water quality standards for discharges through the deepwater outfall and has resisted upgrading its treatment facilities. San Diego contends, among other things, that the standards should not apply to deepwater oceanic discharge. The dispute finally reached the courts where, until now, San Diego has been successful in obtaining waivers from the federal standards.

Last December, San Diego applied to renew its waivers. But, amid growing resistance from regulators and

environmental groups, speculation is rising that the federal court may not grant further waivers unless San Diego presents a plan to meet the federal standards. Meeting these standards could cost an estimated \$1.5 billion or more. Councilmember Abarbanel, who chairs the Metro Wastewater Joint Powers Authority and is Del Mar’s representative, said Del Mar’s share of the cost could range from \$2 million to \$5 million. “For us, that’s a lot of money,” said Councilmember Abarbanel, “but it’s less than half the apparent cost of connecting to San Elijo,” he said.

The Metro Wastewater JPA was created in 1998 by Del Mar and ten other small public agencies, all connected to San Diego’s Metro system, to represent their interests in dealings with San Diego. “Del Mar and these agencies have long been trapped by the policy errors of San Diego,” said Mr. Abarbanel. “The Metro Wastewater JPA is the best means available to level the playing field in dealings with San Diego and to protect the interests of Del Mar ratepayers,” he added. Combined, the members of the Metro Wastewater JPA contribute about 35 percent of the total sewage flow through San Diego’s outfall and pay a proportionate share of the cost of operating and maintaining the Metro system.

# Del Mar Chili Warms Firefighters

By Liz Dernetz

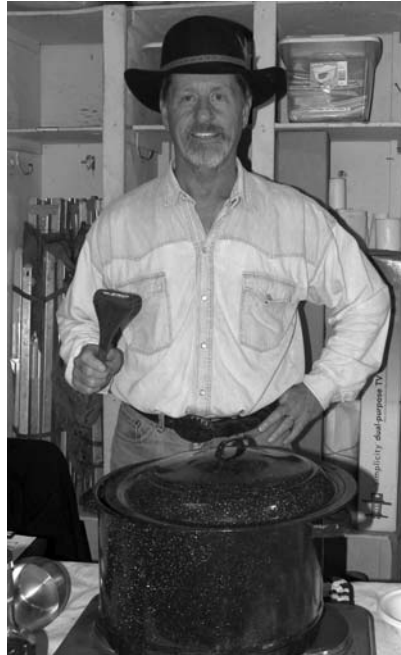
Over the holidays, the Sandpiper editorial board members took a break from writing and editing, but they were in no way idle. Instead, they were collaborating with members of Del Mar's other non-profit organizations to stage Del Mar's first-ever Chili Olympics on January 5 at the Del Mar Fire Station. The organizations' best cooks and bakers were asked to compete with each other in three categories of home cooking: chili, cornbread and apple pie. The cause was worthy: to raise money for San Diego County's eight firefighters who lost their homes during the firestorms of October, 2007.

Susan Sbicca, Executive Chef and co-owner of Sbicca Bistro and Meritage Restaurant, commented after the event, "It was a great way to spend the afternoon and to see the community of Del Mar come together to support the firemen."

She teamed with caterer Chef Robert Leone of Your Chef Robert, and with Fire Chief David Ott to judge the competition. Robert added, "I am proud to have been part of a very wonderful and beneficial event."

The Mar Dels, a retro band that has long been a favorite of locals, donated their time to entertain the crowd after the award winners were announced. Meanwhile, attendees found themselves toe-tapping as they strolled back through the food tables for seconds, and servers could be seen dancing in place.

Del Mar's first Chili Olympics was a success in several ways. First, the



City councilmember Richard Earnest with his "Wild Turkey" chili



Sherryl Parks picks raffle tickets from the fireman's boot



Part of the large crowd of chili-lovers

event raised over \$6,000 for the firefighters and their families through admissions receipts, raffle ticket sales and outright gifts from generous individual and group donors. Second, a record crowd of approximately 300 were in attendance to sample the event's signature dishes. Finally, local organizations discovered that they enjoy working together for a good cause. Shirley King, one of the event organizers, commented, "Such a spirit of cooperation and community-building was expressed by the participating teams that there was whole-hearted request for an annual competition to support our Firefighters."

The Frustrated Cowboy, Rusty's Surf Shop and Golden Treasures each contributed raffle prizes while the Friends of the San Dieguito River Valley donated funds for the service items including plates, bowls, napkins, glassware and utensils and Starbucks provided its signature coffee. Those who attended treated themselves to the finest home cooking in Del Mar, and lots of it.

Olympic medals (gold, silver, bronze,) were awarded to:

Best Regular Chili: Del Mar Firefighters; Del Mar Village Association; and Del Mar Historical Society.

Best Veggie Chili: the Sandpiper; Del Mar Toastmasters; and Del Mar Historical Society.

Best Looking Cornbread: Del Mar Community Connections; Del Mar Village Association; and the Sandpiper.

Best Tasting Cornbread: Del Mar Foundation; Del Mar Community Connections; and Del Mar Historical Society.

Best Looking Apple Pie: Del Mar Village Association; the Sandpiper; and Del Mar Community Connections.

Best Tasting Pie Filling: the Sandpiper; Del Mar Garden Club; and Del Mar Community Connections.

Liz Dernetz is a resident of Del Mar.



Event co-organizer Carol Kerridge with one of the raffle prizes.

# Sales Tax \$\$ Lower Than Expected

By Wayne Dernetz

City officials reported in January that third quarter sales tax receipts have fallen by almost eight percent over the same period a year ago, significantly worse than anticipated for the 2007-2008 fiscal year. The 2007-2008 budget estimates for sales tax revenues were reduced by one percent over the previous year due to a declining trend that began in 2005. The third-quarter adjusted results received from the California Franchise Tax Board last month, and advanced payments received from the State through December 31, 2007 revealed sales tax revenues fell from \$602,000 in 2007 to just under \$555,000 in 2007.

Comparing Del Mar's performance to the rest of the State, City Manager Karen Brust reported that Southern California receipts increased an average of just 0.1 percent, while Northern California increased an average of 0.5 percent. The average for all of California increased just 0.2 percent. Adjusted for inflation at the 2007 rate of 4.1 percent, the purchasing power of California's sales revenues showed a decline of 3.1 percent overall. Del Mar's sales tax revenues are falling at a much higher rate.

Sales tax revenue makes up the City's third largest category, 15.9 percent, of general fund revenue. Property

taxes are the largest source, at just over 30.6 percent, followed by Transient Occupancy (Hotel) taxes at 16.3 percent. The City Manager attributed the worse than expected decline in sales taxes to higher food prices, the nation's housing and credit market problems, and growing worries over the nation's economy. All these factors have contributed to a reduced spending for taxable goods.

The City Manager's report shows that 68 percent of all sales revenues within the Del Mar are generated by the top 25 retail collectors. Restaurants comprise the largest category of sales tax generators, about \$800,000, followed by Miscellaneous Retail Sales, about \$220,000, and Apparel Stores, about \$120,000. Thirteen of the City's top 25 sales tax generators are restaurants.

Del Mar's third quarter sales tax returns typically are the largest of the year, the fourth quarter is the lowest. The declining trend in sales tax revenue has caused concern for the City Council. Last year, the City imposed a moratorium on new office uses within the Central Commercial (CC) zone. Studies are underway to determine how the City can encourage more retail business uses. Office uses generally provide services that are not subject to sales taxes.

Del Mar, as in most cities, receives just one percent of the total sales tax rate of 7.75 percent applied to the sale of taxable goods. Food and medicine are not taxed. The State general fund received largest portion, six percent, and the balance goes to transportation uses.

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## "Bring Our House Home"

By Larry Brooks

At their December 3 meeting, the Del Mar City Council agreed unanimously that Alvarado House should be moved to City-owned property on, or adjacent to, the 'Shores Property'. The question of exactly where to situate on these properties will wait until February 1, the deadline for fund raising to acquire the 'Shores Property'.

The Del Mar Historical Society's presentation to the Council included preliminary engineering work and several legal considerations. This presentation was followed by several speakers supporting the move, including a very elegant and emotional presentation by Bill Arballo, whose family lived in Alvarado House for about 40 years. In addition to the speakers, the Council chamber was filled with many supporters wearing bright blue badges with 'BRING OUR HOUSE HOME'.

The Society has much work to do before Alvarado House actually has a home, and that work has begun with conversations with City staff, the 22nd Ag District (the present 'landlords' of the house), the California Coastal Commission, house-moving contractors, adjacent property owners, and potential financial backers for this project.



The above computer-generated illustration shows the house sitting on the newly-discovered, City-owned parcel, just south of the office building on the southwest corner of Camino del Mar and 9th Street.

If you would like to participate in this historic effort, or want more information on the Del Mar Historical Society, including membership, please visit the website [www.delmarhistoricalsociety.org](http://www.delmarhistoricalsociety.org).

*Larry Brooks is a resident of Del Mar.*



### Cathy's Perspective

By Catherine D

Before I moved to Del Mar, I would go with my grandma and her Ridgeback to Dog Beach and pick out the type of dog I wanted. At the time, I begged for a Husky; but sadly, my parents said, "no." Years later, I have a five-year-old mutt named Max. Every morning, Max wakes up my family and follows my mom around until she picks up his leash, puts on her old green coat and takes him down to Dog Beach. I usually don't have time to go anymore, but I went last weekend and was amazed at the number of dogs that had taken their owners on that early morning walk. It was fun to see all the different breeds and mixes playing in the surf. I finally understand why my mom and all the others wake up so early to take their dogs to Dog Beach. It is a happy place.

## Sips & Tidbits

By Liz & Wayne Dernetz

**Are** you looking for a way to charm your sweetheart this Valentine's Day? How about a romantic Del Mar dinner for two? We've compiled a list of local restaurants for you. But reserve early! Del Mar is a very popular destination on this holiday.

**Americana Restaurant** offers the choice of a 4-course prix fixe menu or the regular à la carte menu for a delightful dining experience. Phone 794-6838.

**The Brigantine** proposes upscale specials, both for entrée and dessert from the menu that is printed daily. Phone: 481-1166.

**Cafe del Mar** features specials for two to share while a combo plays music for lovers in the lounge from 6:30 to 9:30 p.m. Phone: 481-1133.

**En Fuego Cantina & Grill** offers special fare including a champagne toast and a rose for the ladies. Phone: 792-6551.

**Epazote Oceanview Steakhouse** features Chef Amanda's prix fixe specials with a choice of soup or salad and dessert, accompanied by live acoustic guitar and the gift of a flower. Phone: 259-9966.

**Giorgio's Osteria Pescatore** proposes fresh specials and the excitement of a wine and food raffle to be awarded February 14 for couples who reserve online at [www.giorgiositalianrestaurant.com](http://www.giorgiositalianrestaurant.com). Or phone: 509-9293.

**Jake's Del Mar** pampers couples with new, cozy seating and the proven dinner menu highlighted by a sunset view and strawberry hula pie for dessert. Phone: 755-2002.

**Pacifica Del Mar** features a special menu that includes soup or salad with entrée and a complimentary flower for ladies. Phone: 792-0476.

**Poseidon on the Beach** offers a limited menu of à la carte specials including lobster, with prices that range from \$25 to \$40, and desserts. Phone: 755-9345.

**Sbicca An American Bistro's** Executive Chef Susan honors lovers with dishes spotlighting sexy foods like lobster, caviar or white truffles seductively garnished with rose petals, and a gooey black cherry chocolate dessert for two. Phone: 481-1001.

## February Community Calendar

**Teen Advisory Group:** Friday, Feb. 1, 3:30pm, Del Mar Library.

**Del Mar Farmer's Market:** Saturdays, 1-4pm, City Hall Parking Lot. Purchase fresh, locally grown produce, flowers, eggs, and many other products.

**Valentine's Arts and Crafts:** Sunday, Feb. 3, noon-1pm, second floor, Powerhouse Community Center. Del Mar Foundation and Del Mar Library will assist children to make shell-covered boxes and Valentine's cards. All supplies provided but kids can bring their favorite shells. Reservations by email: [lisalutz@san.rr.com](mailto:lisalutz@san.rr.com)

**Children's Music Concert Series:** Sunday, Feb. 3, 1pm, Powerhouse Community Center. Hullabaloo Band with Del Mar natives Steve Denyes and Brendan Kremer will play their brand of "free-range kid-folk music". Enjoy quality music that balances catchy tunes, solid song-writing and silliness.

**City Council Meetings:** Monday, Feb. 4 and Tuesday, Feb. 19, 6pm, DMTV Studios.

**First Thursday:** Feb. 7, 6:30pm wine and cheese, 7pm program, Powerhouse Community Center. Bach Collegium San Diego will present The Harmony of Invention: Music of the 17th & 18th Centuries. Subscribers only.

**DMVA Design Committee:** Friday, Feb. 8, 9am-10:15am, City Hall Annex.

**DMCC Monthly Board Meeting:** Saturday, Feb. 9, City Hall Annex.

**Friends of the Powerhouse Valentine Dinner/Dance:** Saturday, Feb. 9, 6pm cocktails followed by dinner, auction and dancing to the music of Java, Powerhouse Community Center. Tickets \$100/person includes complimentary parking, 755-5220.

**DMCC Valentine's Tea, Music and Talk:** Monday, Feb. 11, 1:30-3:30 pm, Powerhouse Community Center. Creative Arts Clarinet Trio; Christina Sanders, Scripps Cardiology

**Del Mar TV Foundation Board Meeting:** Monday, Feb. 11, 4pm, DMTV Studios. Monthly meeting to review/approve grants and other business.

**Singing Together Connection:** Tuesday, Feb. 12, 3:30-5pm, 1010 Crest Road. All voices welcome; please park on Amphitheatre Drive. Call Regina for details: 755-1931.

**Del Mar Planning Commission:** Tuesday, Feb. 12, 6pm, DMTV Studios.

**Gas Station Site Steering Committee:** Tuesday, Feb. 12, 3:30pm and Feb. 26, 4pm, City Hall Annex.

**Cultural Arts Committee:** Wednesday, Feb. 13, 8:30am, Powerhouse Community Center.

**DMVA Promotion/Event Committee:** Wednesday, Feb. 13, 9-10:15am, Del Mar TV Studios.

**Preschool Spanish/English Storytime:** Wednesday, Feb. 13, 10:30am, Del Mar Library.

**Del Mar Foundation Monthly Board Meeting:** Thursday, Feb. 14, 8:30am, City Hall Annex.

Presidents Day: Monday, Feb. 18.

**Del Mar Arts Center Board Monthly Meeting:** Monday, Feb. 18, 6:30pm, DMTV Studios.

**Del Mar Historical Society Monthly Meeting:** Tuesday, Feb. 19, 7pm, City Hall Annex.

**Friends of the Powerhouse Board Meeting:** Wednesday, Feb. 20, 9am, Jakes.

**Del Mar TV Foundation Producers Meeting:** Thursday, Feb. 20, 6:30pm, DMTV Studios.

**Children's Committee Monthly Meeting:** Wednesday, Feb. 27, 9-10am, Powerhouse Community Center Balcony. Help plan and support children's events and activities in Del Mar.

**DMVA Economic Restructuring Committee:** Wednesday, Feb. 27, 9am-10:30am, L'Auberge Del Mar Trophy Suite.

**Design Review Board:** Wednesday, Feb. 27, 6pm, DMTV Studios.

**DMVA Board Meeting:** Thursday, Feb. 28, 8am, City Hall Annex.

**Rose Society Monthly Meeting:** Thursday, Feb. 28, 6:30pm-8:30pm, Powerhouse Community Center.

## Children's Committee

By Liz Dernetz

The Del Mar Foundation has recently added a Children's Committee. Current members are parents wanting to meet other parents and plan fun activities for children. They meet on the second floor of the Powerhouse Community Center on the last Wednesday of every month. Visitors are welcome.

Lisa Lutz, Chairperson, states that the Children's Committee has already developed several activities to be held in conjunction with the monthly Children's Concert. On Sunday, February 3, kids can learn about and make "Sailor's Valentines," or seashell-covered boxes, and traditional Valentine's Day cards. The Committee and the Del Mar Library will provide supplies, but children may bring their favorite seashells to use as well. It all happens at noon on the second floor of the Powerhouse Community Center. The Children's Concert will follow at 1pm on the ground floor.

At noon on Sunday, March 2, the Committee will provide a "Cat in the Hat" crafts activity honoring Dr. Seuss, whose birthday is that same day. Again, the activity will precede the Children's Concert. As the weather warms,

the Children's Committee will offer different kinds of programs, both outdoors and in. For further information, call the Foundation at 635-1363 or email: [info@delmarfoundation.org](mailto:info@delmarfoundation.org).



Front row from left: Stephanie Lane ; Lisa Lutz ; Nazy Tully; Beth Davidson; Belinda Donne.  
Second row from left: Amy Hellenkamp ; Marisa Lowe; Lisa Kerwin; Marna Pippel; Jennifer Vodrazka.

# Bluegrass and Beyond

By Betty Wheeler

Virtuosic chops filled the Powerhouse on two consecutive nights in January, as bluegrass musicians Rob Ickes (dobro) and Joe Craven (fiddle, mandolin) took to the stage for the First Thursday audience, and then for a performance the following evening co-sponsored by the Del Mar Foundation and the San Diego Bluegrass Society. Rob Ickes (on right in picture), the youngest dobro player invited to perform on the Grammy-winning CD, *The Great Dobro Sessions* (1994), has been named Dobro Player of the Year a record-setting nine times by the International Bluegrass Music Association (IBMA), and the reasons were evident in his lightning-speed playing, with equal measure of power and lyricism.

Joe Craven (on left in picture), a 17-year veteran of the David Grisman Quintet, held his own, playing not only fiddle and mandolin, but also a variety of objects not ordinarily regarded as musical instruments, including a

stockpot taken from Lynn Gaylord's kitchen! A second "bluegrass and beyond" concert, featuring The Infamous Stringdusters, who recently won Emerging Artists of the Year and Album of the Year awards from IBMA, will take place at the Powerhouse on Friday, March 21. Tickets are available online here: [www.summergrass.net/id58.html](http://www.summergrass.net/id58.html).

*Betty Wheeler is a Del Mar Foundation Board member.*



# A Valentine Gift for Lifeguards

By Piper Parry

Friends of the Powerhouse are holding their 11th Annual Valentine Dinner Dance and Auction on Saturday, February 9 at the Powerhouse Community Center. Proceeds from the "Del Mar Sweethearts: Temperature Rising" event will be used for construction of the new Community Services/Lifeguard Headquarters at 17th Street.



"With increased usage of Del Mar beaches by local residents as well as more than two million visitors annually, Del Mar is sorely in need of a new Community Services/Lifeguard Headquarters. After 40 years, the current facilities have been outgrown and have fallen to disrepair, and we're pleased to partner with the City of Del Mar to raise funds for the new Headquarters," said Carmen Fernandez, Chair of the Annual Dinner Dance Committee.

Among items to be auctioned by KXYX disc jockey Sam Bass include: A champagne brunch and sail in San Diego Bay onboard a 38-foot classic Stephenson sailboat; rental of the Powerhouse with dinner for 10 people catered by Jake's; A Day at the Races for up to 10 people with lunch in the Directors Dining Room at the Del Mar Thoroughbred Club and a visit to the paddock and winner's circle; and the Del Mar Beach Package including a boat ride on the Lifeguard rescue boat, scuba lessons and surf lessons for two and a wagon filled with beach accessories.

Cocktails will start at 6pm; dinner will be followed by an auction of select items and dancing to the music of Java. Complimentary parking for the event will be offered at the King Lot across the street from the Powerhouse Community Center.

The Valentine Dinner Dance sold out last year with approximately 140 people attending the event. Tickets are available for this year's event by contacting Friends of the Powerhouse at 755-5220. Tickets are limited and are \$100 per person for cocktails, dinner and dancing. Tables for 10 people are available for \$1,000. Tickets are tax deductible to the extent allowed by law.

The Friends of the Powerhouse was formed more than ten years ago to work with the City of Del Mar to preserve the Powerhouse building on Coast Boulevard. After several years of fundraising, the building was upgraded and transformed into the Community Center that exists today.

Subsequent to that, the Friends raised money for and worked with the City of Del Mar to construct the Tot Lot, located at the southern tip of Powerhouse Park. The Friends of the Powerhouse has also raised money for and funded many other beach-related projects including the beach-ready wheelchairs and continued maintenance and preservation of the Powerhouse Community Center.

*Piper Parry is President of Friends of the Powerhouse.*



## Del Mar Community Connections: a 501(c)(3) Nonprofit Corporation

### Neighbors Helping Neighbors to Create a Web of Safety, Service and Support

## DMCC Special Events and Activities

**Monday, February 11:** DMCC Valentine's Tea: Be Good to Your Heart. Creative Arts Clarinet Trio will serenade us, and Christina Sanders, Scripps Cardiology, will inform

us as we sip tea and munch healthy-heart goodies. Powerhouse Community Center; 1658 Coast Blvd., Del Mar. 1:30-2:30pm.

Call 792-7565 for more information or to reserve.

## DMCC Ongoing Events and Activities

**Silver Age Yoga for Seniors,** Fridays: 10-11am at St. Peter's Parish Hall. FREE! With chairs or on the floor. Chairs provided; bring your own yoga mat for floor work. Teacher trained and certified by Silver Age Yoga.

**Singing Together:** Tuesday, February 26, from 3:30-5 pm at 1010 Crest Rd. Please park on Amphitheatre.

**Knit and Stitch:** Thursday, February 7, 3-4:30 pm. (First Thursday of each month.) At the Del Mar City Library. Bring your own project and share an idea. Call Regina Horner, 755-1931 for details.

**DMCC's Senior Legal Services:** Friday, February 29, 9am to 1pm. (Last Friday of each month.) Attorney provides advanced healthcare directive, power of attorney, wills, referrals and more. FREE for seniors 60 and older in the 92014 zip code area. Must call DMCC at 792-7565 for appointment and to confirm date.

**Senior Fitness Classes:** at the Powerhouse, Colleen Soto teacher. San Dieguito Adult School (760) 753-7073 ext. 3418 or www.sdadulted.com. Tues. & Thurs. 8am, 9am or 10am, low impact and chair support. \$15. Registration for Winter/Spring session on-going; classes begin 2/5/08.

**Life Story Classes:** with Mai Lon Gittelsohn, at St. Peter's Episcopal Church Library. Thurs. 9-11:30 am or Fri. 9:30 am to 12 noon. See info for SD Adult School above.

**Bridge and Mah Jongg Games:** Wednesdays at Powerhouse Community Center. Free! Mah Jongg players upstairs 10am-2pm; Bridge downstairs 11am-2 pm. No partner necessary. Mah Jongg call June Strasberg 755-4680; Bridge call 792-7565.

**Computer tutoring for seniors:** In partnership with Casa di Amistad and the Solana Beach Senior Center, DMCC offers free computer tutoring plus use of Web Adapt technology for those with vision problems: Mondays, 9-11:30am, 120 Stevens Ave., SB, Computer Lab, Room 108. Call DMCC, 792-7565 for details.

**Warm Water Aerobics Class for Del Mar Seniors:** Monday, 12-1pm at Noonan Family Swim School, Jimmy Durante Blvd. Fee: \$6/class or \$30 for 6 classes. Register in class. For more information call DMCC, 792-7565 or Eleanor Conlon, 792-8167. Also offered: arthritis warm water class; open to all residents; meets on Thursdays, 12 to 1 at the same time and for the same price. This class is taught by a teacher trained and certified by the Arthritis Foundation. Call 514-8333 to confirm arthritis class.

**Shuttle Bus Service:** DMCC shuttle bus provides pick-up at City of Del Mar residents' homes and takes them on alternate Wednesdays to Henry's (Solana Beach) and to Trader Joe's (Encinitas); on Thursdays to Vons on Mango and Ralphs shopping center in DM Highlands. Suggested donation for each trip: \$3. Call 792-7565, 24 hours in advance to arrange pick up. The DMCC bus always has a volunteer host to help shoppers with their shopping and taking their groceries into the house. New hosts are always needed—PLEASE VOLUNTEER! 792-7565.

**Rides to medical appointments:** DMCC volunteers, using their own cars, drive City of Del Mar residents to medical appointments. Call 792-7565 a week in advance to reserve a ride. To become a volunteer driver, call 792-7565.

**Dial-A-Ride taxi vouchers:** For seniors over age 62 and residents with special needs who live in the City of Del Mar; now available through DMCC. Call 792-7565 for details.

## Upcoming DMCC Events (Mark your calendars!)

**Monday, March 10:** 10am at the Annex. THE LATEST CONS & SCAMS with Lamont Siller, FBI agent. Learn about the latest cons & scams and identity theft, and how to avoid them. Refreshments provided. Call to reserve: 792-7565.

**Monday, March 10:** 12-4pm at the Annex. Free CPR/AED Class offered by the San Diego Medical Services Enterprise, developed by the American Heart Association. Learn the basics of CPR as well as how to use Automated External Defibrillators (AEDs). CPR cards, valid for two years, are issued to students who pass the entire class. Comfortable clothing is recommended. Call to reserve: 792-7565.

**Friday, March 21:** 9am to 1pm & Friday, March 28, 11am to 3pm at the Annex. AARP Safe Driving For Seniors Class Judy Gordon is returning to teach this class. Fee: \$10, payable at the first class. The maximum enrollment is 30. Attendees are encouraged to bring their lunch for both days. Most insurance companies offer a discount for completion of this course. Call DMCC for more information or to reserve 792-7565.

**Coming soon:** We are planning a bus trip to the San Diego Natural History Museum for the exhibitions A Day in Pompeii, and Photography at the Poles. Stay tuned for the date!

**Available at the DMCC Office:** Ask for the Health Resource Guide 2008 prepared by Aging and Independence Services, and Own Your Future - Planning Guide for Long-term Care by U.S. Department of Health & Human Services.

# City Council, Trees Trade Blows

By Art Olson

Certainly Del Mar owes much of its charm to its abundance of trees, which enhance our environment in numerous ways. The recent firestorm that threatened Del Mar, however, has brought the issue of management of our trees

It will still be up to the homeowner to take the initiative to obtain a tree removal permit for such trees, and neighbor-noticing of the proposed tree removal will still take place prior to any administrative approval, but the policy change will

in policy, two giant trees in the community undertook suicide missions by striking Del Mar homes during the recent rains and heavy winds in early January. One very large eucalyptus tree dove across Carolina Avenue, landing on and demolishing the entryway roof of the Wheelock residence. In a separate attack, a large Torrey Pine uprooted and damaged the home of former Mayor Jerry Finnell. Such incidents point up the fact that fire is not the only hazard that we should guard against. Trees such as

Eucalyptus and Torrey Pine that grow naturally in arid environments tend to reach unnatural sizes with weakened root systems when they are over-irrigated in our urban-forest environment. It behooves all of us to appreciate both the beauty and the dangers of our urban forest, and the need to manage it in a responsible and sustainable manner.

*Art Olson was a member of the Urban Forest Management and Fire Safety Planning Committee*



into the fore. The City's Urban Forest Management and Fire Safety Strategic Plan that was approved in 1999 recommends striking a balance between the benefits and the hazards of trees in a densely populated environment, with the vision of "a sustainable urban forest that contributes to an optimum quality of life in Del Mar."

The City Council in its meeting of December 3 took a new policy stand in keeping with this vision by recognizing that some types of trees are inherently hazardous with regard to fire safety. With this new policy in place, homeowners are no longer required to prove that eucalyptus trees in their adjacent public right-of-way present a public nuisance or fire hazard in order to obtain a tree removal permit, a process that previously required expert verification.

clearly facilitate the process of ridding our neighborhoods of potentially hazardous trees.

In what appeared to be an angry response to this shift

## Land-Use Alert!

Two meetings will take place soon that will benefit from significant public input:

**February 4, City Council Meeting.** A hearing on the Hotel L'Auberge discussing whether a day spa and small retail space on 15th Street are consistent with the Hotel Specific Plan that governs allowed use.

**February 12, Gas Station Site Specific Plan Steering Committee.** 3:30pm City Hall Annex. The meeting will be devoted to discussion and recommendations for the Exceptional Public Benefits to be included in the Specific Plan for the development of the 10th Street site.

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