

SANDPIPER

TALK THE WALK

Kathleen Garcia | Planning and Community Development Director.

How do we maintain and enhance our commercial core so we have an attractive, economically viable and pedestrian oriented Village Center? That was the question that attracted me to Del Mar a few months ago and I am enjoying figuring out the challenges and opportunities and developing an inclusive process to move forward.

Throughout the years, we have been taking various steps to revitalize our Village. But one thing has remained constant –the Del Mar Community Plan and its goals to have a vibrant Village. Goal 4 specifically states: “Focus retail and office uses serving both residents and visitors into an attractive, economically viable, pedestrian oriented area.” It envisions a Village that is oriented to the pedestrian rather than the automobile, where businesses are encouraged to serve both the local resident and visitor, and where the architectural design keeps the traditional village character.

We have been on the path to achieving our Community Plan goals, but there is a lot of work that is left to be done. Camino del Mar was once developed with highway uses, filled with gasoline stations and motels. We're lucky that the freeway moved east and we were able to retain our main street as a much slower corridor. Along Camino



How to enhance a pedestrian oriented village center is the focus of community conversations on revitalization.

Photo courtesy City of Del Mar.

del Mar, we have longtime establishments that maintain the Del Mar history and some fantastic new enterprises that compliment the community character. But what will maintain the characteristics that we desire and change those which need improvement? This is the time to develop the long-range plan of what we want our Village to be, not just now but for the twenty or thirty year horizon.

We would like to invite you to a conversation regarding Village Revitalization efforts. During the next month, Mayor Mosier and Councilwoman Haydu as City Council Liaisons for Planning will

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CHASING CONCESSIONS

Del Mar has successfully utilized its developmental controls to maintain its distinctive environmental qualities and village character. Proposed developments are reviewed in terms of their conformity to the Del Mar Community Plan, design ordinance and zoning regulations. Most development proposals are routinely approved, sometimes with minor conditions.

On occasion, applicants seek concessions from policies and regulations claiming a special circumstance of one kind or another. Such requests can generate considerable confusion and differences of opinion among public officials, appointed board members and citizen groups.

Case in point:

In his application to improve and use the building at 1431 Camino Del Mar as a medical center, Dr. Paul Chasan, a local surgeon, requested relief from the City's Horizontal Zoning Regulations. The Regulations restrict first floor building spaces along Camino Del Mar to uses that not only protect and enhance a pedestrian environment in the downtown area but also protect retail sales and the sales tax revenue they generate for the City.

After a single City Council hearing, Dr. Chasan was granted his request to use the building for his Surgery Center, a non-retail use, in exchange for agreeing to provide public benefits by connecting the seating area

of the adjoining Starbuck's with a new seating area on his property. Enhanced pedestrian access and much needed additional public seating were judged by the City Council to be valuable public benefits in exchange for the zoning waiver: a win for both Dr Chasan and the City.

During construction of the project Dr. Chasan encountered challenges in meeting fire codes that altered some of the project's landscape area. He evidently thought it was okay to make changes to the approved project that altered or eliminated elements that were conditions for approval. Unfortunately, with these changes the win-win turned into a win-lose with the community on the losing end.

On April 11, Dr. Chasan found himself defending to the Council and the community what he believed were valid substitutions for what was originally approved. Although the decision is continued to May 9 due to last minute plan changes, Dr. Chasan ran into strong community opposition to his request for approval of modifications without the public benefits upon which the original approval was based.

This should be no surprise for any applicant seeking concessions from Del Mar's planning and development requirements. Once approved it is expected that the applicant will proceed to build the project according to the originally approved plans, especially when concessions were granted in exchange for the implementation of public benefits.

This give and take process has served the City well and is most visible in the unique small village quality of life that is becoming rare in such dense urban environments like San Diego. We can assume that is one reason Dr. Chasan chose to invest in placing his center in our community. And the community needs to hold firm on obtaining the valuable public benefits promised. ■



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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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

- The Sandpiper welcomes readers' letters and articles on topics of interest to the Del Mar community. We strive to provide a variety of viewpoints represented in a responsible manner. Readers may also recommend or propose articles.
- Material submitted may be published in either the print edition or on the website.
- Letters which will be considered for print should not exceed 100 words; articles considered for print should not exceed 400 words.
- Writers of material selected for publication will be notified prior to publication. We regret we cannot return or acknowledge unpublished material.
- Material to be published may be edited or shortened.
- Material submitted must include the writer's name, address and phone number.
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Send to:

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LET'S BE POT SMART!

A medical marijuana dispensary has opened at 1105 Camino del Mar. This should not be a surprise to the City Council as the county and the City of San Diego have been grappling with the issue of permitting such dispensaries.



Photo illustration Art Olson

A vocal group of people will insist that the council prohibit all such dispensaries. They will argue that such dispensaries are magnets for vagrants and will increase the incidents of drug related crimes – panhandling, petty theft, breaking and entering. They will point to the experience of other communities in San Diego that have allowed (until recently) the opening of such dispensaries. They will also claim that this sets a bad example for our children who will see that adults use an illegal substance and these children will want to experiment with this substance which in turn will lead them into becoming addicted to marijuana or other illegal drugs. Finally, they will claim that such dispensaries are just places that anyone can get marijuana without a true medical condition.

Yet these arguments are probably not substantiated by the facts on the ground. Most dispensaries have been set up in areas with vagrants already present and with larger rates of crime. Children today are bombarded with lots of messages about alcohol and drugs and there is no proof that experimenting with alcohol or drugs leads to addiction or the use of more potent drugs. If it were the case that experimenting with marijuana leads to addiction probably half of the baby boomers would be addicted today.

The voters of Del Mar have spoken – they overwhelmingly approved Proposition 19 the legalization of marijuana by a margin of 64 to 36%. The council should determine conditions for a permit that provide for the safety of our city without turning a cold shoulder to the people that need marijuana to reduce their pain and suffering due to medical conditions. Specifically, conditions could be put on the dispensary to limit the number of people using the space on an hourly basis and limit the number of dispensaries within the commercial center of town. The council needs to be “easy on the person” and “tough on the problem.”

Del Mar cannot solve the social problems of the world, but we can create an environment that sheds a guiding light on how to intelligently deal with reality.

Dave Druker, 10th Street

CHASAN COMPLAINTS

My intent in the upcoming city council meeting is not to detract from the sense of place or pedestrian flow. It is simply a liability issue. There is an 18” grade difference between the two properties. We have already seen a number of falls on the property that were much less hazardous. I wanted to put a 3 ½ foot high decorative fence along the areas of grade discrepancy. As far as the size of the seating area and number of seats that was considerably restricted because we had to sprinkler the building. The placement of the backflow device for the sprinklers was mandated by city and state code. It was a big disappointment to me as well. In the future, I would appreciate your staff contacting me first and getting the full story before putting alarming and misinformed public notices in the local press.

Dr. Paul Chasan, Surgery Center, April 8, 2011

CHASAN CORRECTIONS

I am requesting the “Sandpiper” alter the letter I sent to you [on April 9, 2011] for publication. The proposed site plan now shows the elevation difference between Starbucks and our clinic to be 16-18” (not 18”) and the height of the fence between these properties is proposed for 2 feet (not 3.5 feet).

Dr. Paul Chasan, Surgery Center, April 25, 2011

ONE OF SOHO'S TOP 10 MOST ENDANGERED HISTORICAL SITES

Funded by the Works Progress Administration, the WPA, the Del Mar Fairgrounds opened in 1936 and have been used for public gatherings and functions continually for over 70 years. Located at the mouth of the San Dieguito River at the Pacific Ocean, the grounds and racetrack setting is one of the most picturesque in the world. A recent \$86 million wetlands restoration project helped revive and improve the pastoral nature of the 340-acre site.

However, Fairground executives want to inject a \$300 million Las Vegas-style resort development onto the public lands. The buildings proposed include a four-story, 66-foot-high condominium building including an 86-foot tower; and a three-story, 56-foot-high health club with lighting elements 75 feet tall to illuminate rooftop parking lots and playing fields. Also proposed is the erection of new exhibit halls and demolition of existing buildings and the famous Don Diego mural. The Fairground executives have lost sight of their mandate to protect and preserve this historic resource. Continual master plans, which elevate profit motive over pastoral stewardship, are unacceptable for public assets.

Save Our Heritage Organisation (SOHO) Magazine

ASK DR. RICH!

Rich Simons | 11th Street

Every month, Rich Simons answers readers' most perplexing questions.



Q: Is Del Mar going to the dogs? They have their own beach, and their own drinking fountains at the beach and at Seagrove Park, and it is rumored a couple of them have been seen helping out during Mass at St. Peter's. - s.p.

Del Mar is definitely long dog-gone. You must have noticed the pooches also have their own bakery with buffet ("Three Dog Bakery"), their own health store cum boutique ("Dexter's Deli") and their own hair salon ("The Currycomb").

My best guess is that this preoccupation has to do with improving Del Mar's GDP ("Gross Doggie Product"), which is known to contain methane and other volatile gasses, which when properly processed can be made to turn turbines to generate electrical power. This explains why our own CCCC (Conservation Conscious Citizens Corps) can be seen at all times with gloves and baggies doggedly (get it? oh, that's hilarious!) pursuing their pooches to harvest this valuable product.

In the long run, this strategy will help free us from dependence on foreign energy sources, so long as we

eventually phase out French poodles and English bulldogs. (O.K. - that's enough of that low-brow "product" humor.)

Q: There was a longish hearing at the last City Council meeting about that building next to Starbucks. What's going on? - a.d

This is best explained in the form of a fable:

Once upon a time the City of Del Mar had a Sacred Cow. Originally it was just a cash cow (called "tax on retail sales") but the City sanctified it by proclaiming that in perpetuity, so long as the moon shall rise and the sun shall set and the rivers flow down to the sea, all ground floor commercial space on Camino Del Mar must be dedicated to retail usage. They called this the "horizontal zoning ordinance." (Don't ask.)

But then not long ago a smooth-talking feller from out of town somehow hornswoggled the City into giving him the Cow in exchange for a handful of magic beans. One of the beans, for instance, would ensure that in perpetuity, so long as the moon shall . . . (okay, you don't need all that again) . . .down to the sea, the gentle breezes off the ocean, along with countless pedestrians, would flow unimpeded between Starbucks and the building in question.

What the hearing was about is the feller from out of town now wants some of his beans back. He says they really weren't all that magical after all. Some of them won't do what they were supposed to. Ooops, he says. Ha-ha. My bad luck!

The Council took no action. This fable will continue in our next edition. ■

EIRy DECISION

Dwight Worden | Seaview Avenue

On Monday, April 18, 2011, the 22nd District Agricultural Association Board of Directors adopted a controversial Master Plan for development of the fairgrounds with some changes and certified the Final Environmental Impact Report (FEIR) released a short five business days before the proposed adoption. A coalition of interested parties will evaluate the significance of the changes made and evaluate all available options.

The good. It is fair to state that some definite improvements were made, including removal of the condo hotel (but it is still in the FEIR), the commitment to a 100 foot buffer along the river, and mitigation measures calling for consultation with surrounding jurisdictions on lighting, sports fields, design elements of the exhibit halls, the freeway sign, and the sports and health building. These mitigation measures could result in further important changes and improvements to the project if there is actual, meaningful, dialogue with the community on these matters with changes being made as appropriate. Likewise, if there is follow up to accelerate the restoration of the south lot to functioning wetlands that would be a significant improvement.

The not so good. On the other hand, the board ignored all the requests for more time for review and refused to budge on the process. And, as approved, the Master Plan still calls for paving the east parking lot, construction of a parking structure on the east lot, construction of the sports/health building on the east lot, and the FEIR still identifies significant adverse impacts that will not be fully mitigated, although fewer adverse impacts remain after the changes made.

Mitigation Measures: The four items below were discussed by Board members with no final determination. In each case they affirmed a mitigation measure calling for consultation with Del Mar, Solana Beach, San Diego, and the River Park JPA, and holding public workshops before final decisions to be made thereafter by the Board at a noticed meeting.

1. The proposed 92 square foot electronic reader board sign at the freeway.
2. Sports fields on the roof.
3. Lighting on the roofs.
4. Sports and Health building.

So, stay tuned! This story is far from over. ■

(See Worden's full report on our website at delmarsandpiper.org)

PARKING PERPLEX Here There Everywhere

Bill Michalsky | Stratford Court

Parking... Downtown revitalization... so intertwined. We've been here before and it appears we are returning. In 1999 an Ad Hoc Parking Committee was formed by the City Council. Much time was spent by a group of residents and a consultant to study parking in the Downtown Central Commercial district including the immediate residential zone and North Beach areas. This study and its varied recommendations, that included valet parking, was adopted in May, 2000. Priorities were established and may still be valid. Some of the priorities were acted on. The on street parking deficit in Downtown was also identified. The results were well documented and should be the basis for beginning new discussions on this third rail issue. This study and its results are available to all, to review, on the City of Del Mar website, under the Government tab, tucked away with other plans in City Development Documents; we should all be familiar with this and other many other important documents stored here. Another document in that same tab is Vision 2020, this undertaking also spent time digesting the parking issue and recommendations were made; some could fit within the Streetscape Plan, which is also available for view.



Courtesy City of Del Mar

One should consider that parking downtown, in any configuration, has an enormous impact on the adjoining neighborhoods. This is not new to any who live within two to three blocks of the Central Commercial District or Beach Commercial zone. New business is great and offers new jobs and taxes as well. In addition to parking needs for customers the reality of employee parking must be understood and layered in; whatever parking change is proposed for our Downtown it must be balanced with immediate residential needs.

And what about beach visitors? We have a responsibility to live and deal with that need as well. Residents are the recipient of visitor parking needs in many areas from the Beach Colony south to about 11th Street, perhaps further. Sunny days and good surf bring many visitors and not all are utilizing our Downtown. The pressures on parking are growing and we must remember that parking is NOT an infinite resource but a limited commodity.

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CERTAIN PLANS

Piper Underwood | Rimini Road

If the "Big One" struck, do you know where you would go? What you would do? This was precisely the question CERT (Community Emergency Response Team) trained facilitator Carol Kerridge asked a small group of neighbors gathered in my living room. To tell you the truth there weren't a lot of options. Certainly we couldn't all fit under my coffee table.



Photo illustration Art Olson

The question becomes particularly poignant in light of the recent earthquake and subsequent tsunami in Japan, a nation renown for both its volatile geology, and a culture prepared for large earthquakes. We here in Del Mar are not located on, or near a subduction plate like the one which caused the 8.9 magnitude earthquake in Japan, however we do have some nearby faults that are capable of giving us a good shake.

While scientists work on their prediction capabilities, the best thing us citizens can do is make a plan. Our disaster preparedness expert, Carol Kerridge, walked us through the steps of preparing for the most likely scenarios of earthquake and wildfire. Over 600 Del Mar residents have attended similar meetings through the Are You Ready, Del Mar? disaster preparedness program, which is sponsored by Del Mar Community Connections.

As most of us already know, it's critical to have all-important documents, such as birth certificates, social security cards and insurance papers at the ready for a quick escape. We might also know that we need a 3 day supply of water on hand and some canned goods in case water and food supplies are unavailable. However, we may not think of things like having at least a ½ tank of gas in the car at all times, or having a land line in our home in case cell phone service is overloaded.

It's best to start with a list focusing on communication with contacts outside the potential disaster area and on the possible items you may need to sustain you and your family (including pets) for a few days based on possible shortages of water, food, gas and electricity. You should be familiar with the location of your water, gas and electrical shut off areas. The devil is in the details – Experts recommend that you paint

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GARDENERS FLOCK TO ART

Arline Paa | 8th Street

Have you noticed the flock of seabirds flying in formation at City Hall? Well, the sculpture by artist Frank Mando has been installed for 6 months through the generosity of the Del Mar Garden Club. Installation included the costs of the fee required to pay the artist, the installation and the cement foundation needed to keep the sculpture stable as well as liability insurance. The Garden Club has paid all expenses.



Photo Lisa Lutz

The club received permission from the city council to display this particular work for 6 months and then a different work will be brought to town. The Garden Club, working with the Port of San Diego, San Diego Fine Arts Association, San Diego Botanical Garden and our own Public Works Department brought this sculpture from the Embarcadero in downtown San Diego, near the Star of India. It was part of the urban trees project sponsored by the Port District.

For many months the Garden Club has been working to beautify this important corner of Del Mar and this is the first of many exciting art projects being planned. In the future you can look forward to a variety of sculptures to appear at that spot. □

TALK THE WALK

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lead community conversations about Village Revitalization. We hope you can join in one of the following:

- Thursday, April 28, 2011 / 5:00 pm to 7:00 pm / Oceanfront and mid-beach area
- Tuesday, May 3, 2011 / 7:00 pm to 9:00 pm / South hills and south bluff area
- Sunday, May 15, 2011 / 3:00 pm to 5:00 pm / Hills south of 15th Street
- Thursday, May 26, 2011 / 7:00 pm to 9:00 pm / 15th Street and Crest area
- Sunday, June 5, 2011 / 3:00 pm to 5:00 pm / City Hall Annex

RSVP's are requested as the Conversations are being generously hosted in private residences. RSVP to conversations@delmar.ca.us or by phone at 858.755.9313 x160 and you will be sent the exact location.

And look for ongoing information on the City of Del Mar website www.delmar.ca.us. We look forward to hearing from you and hope you will join one (or more) of the Community Conversations. □

CIVIC ROLE MODELS

Claire and Tom McGreal received the Henry Auerbach Leadership Award from the San Diego County Democratic Party at its annual Roosevelt Dinner on April 16. The McGreals are volunteers with Organizing For America (OFA), and have organized OFA Teams throughout the 50th Congressional District from Escondido to Clairemont to Carlsbad. OFA works to advocate the President's legislative agenda, and to help elect candidates who support that agenda. The McGreals accepted the award on behalf of all the hundreds of local OFA volunteers, and recognize that the award honors all those volunteers.

COUNCIL PRIORITIZES ... AND REACHES OUT

Don Mosier | Del Mar Mayor

Lee Haydu | Del Mar City Councilmember

The City Council held their second retreat on March 26th to receive updates on the status of city finances and ongoing projects from the City Manager and Department Heads, and to establish a revenue-constrained priority list for the next two years. At our first retreat on January 22nd, the council discussed what they would like to accomplish, our "wish list." This retreat focused on our "can do list", given the limits of financial resources and staff time. The good news is that city revenues are improving, so we are not as financially constrained as the prior council was two years ago. The remodeling of L'Auberge and the success of the sidewalk cafés and the new restaurants in Del Mar have resulted in increased TOT and sales tax revenues. This will allow the city to take on some new projects, complete ongoing projects, and still maintain a 10% reserve balance in the general fund.

High priority projects include the Fairgrounds negotiations, getting the Beach Safety Center under construction, moving forward on downtown revitalization, and completing the 21st Street pumping station and the retrofit of the North Torrey Pines Bridge. Other short term projects include utility undergrounding on Camino del Mar, reviewing and commenting on the Fairgrounds Master Plan and Final Environmental Impact Report, and working with our SANDAG representatives to influence regional transportation priorities. We also must update our housing element plan. We agreed that more citizen involvement in advisory committees to the council was an important goal, and to start an outreach program to facilitate community conversations about council initiatives.

Other important projects that will be undertaken as soon as feasible include a general parking plan that reduces

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WHY WASTE WATER?

Hershell Price | Del Mar's Representative to the County Water Authority

Your efforts are paying off, but the race is far from over! Keep up the good work!

Governor Brown on March 30th declared the drought officially over throughout the state of California. The major reservoirs up and down the state are brimming with water and the snowpack in the Sierras and northern California is greater than it has been in many years. Significantly, the water content of the snow is 165% of normal at the last reading. Water is being released from our state's largest reservoir at Lake Oroville for flood control purposes and San Luis Reservoir south of the Delta is at capacity.

At its upcoming April board meeting, The Metropolitan Water District, of which the County Water Authority is a member, will be coming out of allocation which means

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All members of the City Council know how important it is to good decision making to get valuable feedback and participation from Del Mar citizens. At our City Council retreat in March we set a top priority on doing community outreach. We agreed that a good first actions step would be to create a citizens' advisory committee for the expressed purpose of devising ways to involve more citizens on a regular basis in our local government activities.

Both Terry Sinnott and I, the most recent members, know from our election campaigns how much we learned from neighborhood meetings and door front conversations. We also heard from those we spoke with that there is a high level of interest among citizens for more citizen participation. We both promised to make that a high priority for our tenure. We believe we will be more effective if we know what is on your minds. The rest of the Council members were very receptive to making citizen involvement a high priority.

The new citizens' committee will be asked to come up with a variety of ways to meet our goal. Look for the formation of the committee in the near future. ■

HIS CUPS RUNNETH OVER

Del Mar resident Steve Fisher continues to pile up awards for his team's spectacular 33-3 basketball season.

San Diego State men's basketball head coach Steve Fisher was named the 2011 Naismith Men's College Basketball Coach of the Year. Fisher edged out finalists Mike Brey (Notre Dame), Dave Rose (Brigham Young) and Thad Matta (Ohio State) to win the most prestigious national award presented annually to the top men's college basketball coach. Fisher earned his second major coaching honor named the National Association of Basketball Coaches (NABC) Division I Coach of the Year. Coach Fisher was also named the 2011 recipient of the Adolph Rupp Cup as the coach of the year. Fisher's cups runneth over.



WEEDS BE GONE!

Robert Scott | Del Mar Fire Marshall

The City's revised Weed Abatement program is now being implemented. The inspector, a part-time employee of the city, is Dawn Robinson with an office in the Annex. She is an experienced fire fighter and already at work, inspecting properties in the Wildlands Urban Interface zone in Del Mar. The new inspector knows about native plants, and you can be assured that the program will not be heavy handed and that forced abatement will be performed as a last resort after all attempts to get voluntary compliance have failed.

The Weed Abatement phone line is 858-704-3662. You will need to leave a message and she promised to get back to you within 48 hours. E-mail her at Inspector@delmar.ca.us. She will accept invitations to inspect your property in totality rather than by a driveby, if asked.



*A group clearing weeds in Crest Canyon near a home.
Photo Carol Kerridge*

No inspector is allowed to go on private property at any time-unless invited. The inspector must do her best she can looking at overgrown vegetation from the street, (this is law other public view points), or from property of a person complaining about another property. If a resident wants to schedule an inspection there will be a weed abatement phone line at the fire station that customers/citizens can call to schedule inspection appointments. With respect to notices and the weed abatement program: Receiving a courtesy notice does not constitute being entered into the enforcement system. The goal of the courtesy notice (not required by law) is to inform homeowners that they may have overgrown, dead or dying vegetation that should be removed. When an owner receives this notice, that is their opportunity to call the inspector (if they want to) and schedule an inspection appointment. If after 30 days no appointments or contact is made, the inspector will re-inspect the same property that any courtesy notice was sent to.

If a property owner takes no action to schedule an inspection or reduce the fire hazard, they will receive a

15 day certified mail notice, asking them again to remove the hazard or schedule an inspection. At that time, the owner still has an opportunity to schedule an inspection. The certified mail notice is meant to show proof of receipt of service, (not to be punitive) yet a time extension (15 to 30 days) can still be granted to the homeowner, so they can have ample time to schedule an inspection at their property, understand the requirements for reducing the fire hazard and take action to remove the hazard.

Our goal is to reduce and eliminate fire hazards using a "compliance thru education" approach. This means meeting homeowners at their property, explaining to them what is required to eliminate overgrown or hazardous vegetation, and following thru with them to ensure the work is done. Forced abatement is a last resort. We do not want to abate property and prefer voluntary compliance. In order to properly conduct this program and eliminate fire hazards prior to fire season, we need to conduct inspections of property (public and private) and assess the fire hazard. The reason we send Courtesy notices is to identify areas of concern, so we can organize our calendar and schedule appointments with interested homeowners (not all homeowners are interested in meeting with us). We cannot possibly conduct this program in an efficient or timely manner and reduce the fire threat prior to fire season, if we go door to door city wide and try to set appointments, prior to sending a courtesy notice. If persons are not home, or not interested in inspections, we lose valuable time in inspection and identification of potential hazards.

Again, since this program is city wide, time is a critical factor. Its worthwhile to note that the Government Code does not require a courtesy notice, nor 50 total days of notification, using three separate notices, (30 day courtesy; 15 day certified mail and 5 day property posting). By law we must only give two notices spanning 20 days. In the interest of reducing the fire hazard and not specifically abating property, the Del Mar weed program proposes 50 days and three separate notices. This is certainly in the property owners favor. The only reason I mention this is to again clarify the City and Fire Departments commitment to reduce the fire hazard by educating property owners, not thru forced abatement of any property. Again, abatement is a last resort. ■

COUNCIL PRIORITIZES ...

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impacts to residents and recovers some of the expenses associated with the many visitors to our beaches, a master plan for the Shores property, a review of our long term pension obligations, and an update to our circulation plan for pedestrians and bicycles.

Del Mar has come through the economic downturn in much better shape than most cities thanks to our prudent financial management and the dedication of our city staff. We are fortunate to be able to move forward with these initiatives to make our small city an even better place to live.

DRIVE OR DRIVEN?

Dave Druker | 10th Street

Caltrans and SANDAG have proposed that the I-5 freeway from La Jolla to Oceanside be widened up to 14 lanes. In "a shot across the bow," Christine Kehoe, the State Senator representing Del Mar introduced Senate Bill 468. This bill demands that before any freeways are widened in the coastal zone of California, improvement to mass transit and local roads must be completed. As of mid-April the bill has passed the Natural Resources Committee and is on the way to the Transportation and Housing Committee in early May.

The usual suspects have lined up to oppose this bill. Their argument against this bill and for the widening of I-5 freeway eventually relies upon the need to reduce traffic congestion. Unfortunately, congestion relief is impossible. Every major city in the world no matter how great a transportation network and public transit system has congestion. Also up to 40% of congestion is caused by accidents and there is no way to stop accidents from happening. Actually, putting more cars and trucks on the freeway increases the chances of accidents happening.



Why choose this?
North Pasadena Gridlock.
Photo Robert M. Cotton.
www.smartfreeway.ning.com/

The widening of freeways provides a false sense that people can live further from places of work and get to work as quickly as if they lived closer, which induces more traffic. Finally, most people go to work during daylight hours so the roads are filled with commuters between 7AM and 9AM in the morning and 4PM and 7PM in the evening.

So why do our elected officials continue to pursue the false hope of congestion relief? Simply most are terrified that they will not be reelected and lose to a person who will promise that traffic congestion can be solved.

So what should our elected officials be doing? They need to provide alternatives to all of us so that we have a choice between getting into a car, taking a train or bus or joining a carpool if possible. For many people in San Diego, there is no alternative to the car. SB 468 is a glimmer in the usual politics of transportation funding. ■

PARKING PERPLEX

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There are many off-street parking spaces in Downtown. Some are available through the Valet Program; but this is only a seasonal option that absorbs, through agreement, some of the private off-street parking spaces. There is still an amount of this parking that has not been made available for many



Courtesy City of Del Mar

reasons. So where are the unseen spaces? Who will build, at considerable cost, the future parking lots and who will bear the cost? And what about the on street parking spaces in Downtown; is this commodity well managed? Then there is free available parking on many side streets, most all of it in residential zones. But employee use, visitor and residential use, curb cuts and red curbs have added their impacts in recent years.

Smart Urban Development is being discussed; do the residents of Del Mar want urban? Or a functional pedestrian friendly Village environment? We don't have user friendly community transit for the immediate area and one must realize that it carries a big price to put in place, operate and maintain. Automobiles are very much the tool people use who live in or visit Del Mar. Sadly they don't seem to be shrinking in size or use. The book "Traffic" by Tom Vanderbilt, notes that "parking is an innocuous gateway drug to a full-blown traffic-abuse problem." Do we need more? This is not to say that many residents don't walk or use alternative methods, but that by itself will not solve our parking shortfall.

As noted recently in the Del Mar Times, "During its March 28 meeting, the Del Mar City Council agreed to start the ball rolling on amending those parking standards, a lengthy process that must be approved by the California Coastal Commission and could take 18 months to two years." Interesting discussions ahead with hopeful solutions I think we can all agree.

Will we resolve this Del Mar Dilemma? ■

GARRY SHIRTS REMEMBERED

Del Mar lost a very highly respected community leader on April 23, Garry Shirts. Because it was after our print deadline this month, the Sandpiper will celebrate Garry's life, his extraordinary talents, and his significant contributions to Del Mar's history in our next issue.

COSMETIC CONCESSIONS

Sherryl L. Parks | Kalamath Drive

On Monday, May 9 the Ranch and Coast Plastic Surgery center at 1431 Camino del Mar will bring before the City Council a proposal to alter their original plans for this critical property in our small town. Their need to altar their original plans are a result of changes they discovered while remodeling. To meet fire code and ADA code regulations, the original hope to make a smooth transition between Starbucks and their medical facility seems to be impossible. Presently the grading on the property results in a 16-18 inch differential between Starbucks and the clinic. The grade makes it seem impossible to make a transition between good coffee and comfortable seating. The original goal, to have an 'easy transition' between properties will need changes both on the north patio, at the street front on Camino del Mar and finally on the south end, where the parking lot is located.

Changes proposed

Due to fire code regulations the flagstone path on Camino del Mar will be eliminated. To better direct foot traffic from Starbucks, a three-step riser will be installed, including a handrail and sidelights to assist pedestrians at night.

A two-foot fence, matching the exterior woods of the building, will be installed along the property line, protecting the landscaping and directing the traffic towards the riser.

The oversize bench-chairs (already installed) will need to be removed. To allow for more seating in the area, 15 smaller outdoor chairs to be scattered throughout the north patio area. No change will be made with the seating around the water fountain, which already allows 21 seats.

The water feature will not be altered.

On the south-end of the property, the three seats originally noted on the plans will be eliminated due to

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Photo Art Olson

FARM FRESH

Sam Borgese | 10th Street

If you haven't been to the De Mar Farmers Market in a while you are missing a revitalization that will make the market a weekly must shop.

The Farmers Market Board of Volunteers, along with a new market manager have been applying their efforts to ensure that Del Mar's market remains relevant to residents and others who see the market as a source for organic and seasonally fresh food from certified vendors.



Photo Maureen Dime

As a non-profit organization the Farmers Market Board contributes more to the community than physical nourishment. It also provides funding for important local organizations. In 2011 the Board has contributed over \$5000 to projects such as: the new Lifeguard Center; Del Mar Community Connections; San Diego River Valley Conservancy; and, the Del Mar library.

Operating such a successful weekly market is no easy task given the recent new farmers markets that exploded onto the scene in the past few years (Rancho Santa Fe) and as recently as the past few months (Flower Hill). The new markets add a bit of vendor competition and scheduling conflicts while also enticing vendors to the view the coastal markets as new areas to present their products.

Add all of this activity to the possibility of the village losing Harvest Ranch its only regular full time market and you can conclude that the fresh food retail environment in Del Mar will be seeing a number of experiments and changes in a scramble to meet the daily needs and culinary food products of village and nearby residents.

Another potential addition to the market mix is the possibility that the Del Mar Village Association may enter into the farmers market business with a Thursday evening market located in the center of the village. Although sounding competitive the DMVA market may be a welcome mid-week venue that is a complement to the Saturday market.

To ensure the non-profit Del Mar farmers market remains a viable and innovative venue presented in the traditions of the Del Mar community - be sure to make the Saturday market a weekly stop to fill your frig and pantry. You'll be surprised at what you find! ■

SAM'S VIEW

Anthony Corso | Stratford Court

As noted in the last issue of the Sandpiper, Del Mar resident, Sam Borgese, was recently appointed to the Del Mar Design Review Board. This is perhaps one of the City's most critical volunteer positions -- challenged as it is to ensure that development or redevelopment proposals respect the quality of life defined in the Del Mar Community Plan and legislated in the City's numerous codes and ordinances.

It seems Sam is familiar with functioning in an environment characterized by demanding and complicated tasks and objectives. He was recently appointed executive chairman of the board of El Pollo Loco and is principally charged with guiding the corporate strategy for all its 410 company and franchise restaurants.

The Design Review Board of seven persons seems to accumulate both criticism and praise. The position can be a contentious one, especially when it involves property owners or developers who operate in a mode of "rugged individualism" and resist regulations or community values that "impede their progress." Likewise, it is frequently the recipient of extensive praise when it insures residents have a voice in developmental deliberations and protects a

neighborhood's environmental characteristics.

Sam has always had a leaning towards planning and urban design, even during the years he served as a successful executive in the restaurant industry. He studied architectural design and engineering at Temple University. His curiosity and knowledge of the planning field, particularly as it incorporated ecology and environmental concerns were nurtured thru study with some of the most inventive and creative minds of the sixties, particularly: Paolo Soleri



Sam Borgese. Photo Tony Corso

and Buckminster Fuller. Both men served to demonstrate alternative approaches to urban development in sync with the natural environment and contemporary principles of urban design.

It is evident that Sam brings his remarkable educational experiences and impressive record of professional accomplishments to his position as a member of the Design Review Board. □

FLOWER HILL FINALE

Ann Gardner | Via Latina

The Flower Hill expansion project got high marks for taking community input seriously and won unanimous approval from the San Diego City Council April 19. Councilwoman Sherri Lightner, whose District includes Del Mar Heights, Del Mar Terrace and Carmel Valley, kicked off the commendations by emphasizing the number of times the applicant had met with the Carmel Valley Planning Board to get input and recirculation of their Draft Environmental Impact Report to include a preferred alternative that reflected the neighbors wish to keep Flower Hill Drive in its present location.



Flower Hill Elevation

Council members saw the project as revitalization of an "outdated" shopping center that will include replacing the 14,000 sq. foot movie theatre with a 35,000 sq. foot Whole Foods Market, and did not seem bothered by the projected increase in traffic on Via de la Valle. "It will be minimal compared to (the increase projected by) the Fairgrounds Master Plan, Lightner commented. The remodel will add 75,000 sq. feet to the current 112,000 sq. ft. building

envelope and also feature a four level, three story parking garage, off Flower Hill Drive, behind the new food market structure.

Based on a related finance plan that involves the widening of Via de la Valle to accommodate more traffic, the applicant's contribution to the cost of widening Via de la Valle was reduced from 3.8 million to just over one million dollars. The contribution will be made when the Certificate of Occupancy is issued. Part of the approval also rejected a mitigation measure that would have required condemnation of property to the east to construct a left turn lane from San Andres onto Flower Hill Drive. Construction planned to begin this summer, Via de la Valle widening early 2013. □

COSMETIC CONCESSIONS

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the ADA code (which requires a smooth grade from the east side of the property to Camino del Mar). Seating in that location would prevent access for handicapped and thus it has been eliminated.

The City Council will need to find that the revised proposals meet the spirit of the agreement they made with Dr. Chasan to make improvements on this property that encourages public use to the space in the front of the building on Camino del Mar.

Construction and code regulations forced the architect and Dr. Chasan to adjust their original plans.

The proposed changes are available for residents on our website at: www.delmarsandpiper.org □

DEL MAR COMMUNITY CALENDAR

Highlights for May 2011

Del Mar Farmer's Market: Every Saturday, 1-4 p.m. City Hall parking lot. Purchase fresh, locally grown produce, flowers eggs and many other products.

DMVA History Committee Monthly Meeting: Tuesday, May 3rd, 5:00 p.m. , En Fuego

Community Conversations: Tuesday, May 3rd, 7:00 p.m., area: S. Hills and S. Bluff area. Please rsvp to conversations@delmar.ca.us and the city will email you an exact location/house address.

First Thursday: Thursday, May 5th, Seema Sueko, Del Mar Powerhouse Community Center, 7:00 p.m. We're sorry, but this series is sold out.

Del Mar Library: Forget Your Troubles, listen to comic stories from the 30's, 40's and 50's told by Linda Henry-Bonin, Friday, May 6th, 11:00 a.m.

Del Mar Foundation: A Special Bluegrass Concert at the Powerhouse. Frank Solivan and Dirty Kitchen. Friday, May 6th, 7:00 p.m. \$15/adv and \$20/door if avail. Tickets and info: www.delmarfoundation.org.

Del Mar City Council Meetings: Monday, May 9th and, Monday, May 23rd, 6:00 p.m. Del Mar Communications Center

Rotary Club of Del Mar: 7th Annual SUNSET SOIREE Fundraiser! Tuesday, May 10th, 5:30-8:30 on the top level of the Del Mar Plaza. \$50.00 ticket price. - Fun, sun, food and libations! Visit the Rotary Club of Del Mar website for more info.

DM Planning Commission: Monthly meeting, Tuesday, May 10th, 6:00 p.m. TV Studio

DMVA Promotion Committee: Monthly meeting, Wednesday, May 11th, 9:00 a.m., 1201 Camino Del Mar #205

DMVA Friday Music Night: Come enjoy live music on the Plaza upper deck every Friday, 5:00-7:00 p.m.

DMF Cultural Arts Committee Meeting: Wednesday, May 11th, 8:30 a.m. , Del Mar Powerhouse Community Center

Del Mar Library: Books and Art with Sandra Dodd, Wednesday, May 11th at 4:00 p.m., Registration required, ages: 5-10. #858-755-1666

Del Mar City Council: Budget Workshop, Part 1 of 2, Tuesday, May 10th, 1:00 p.m., 240 10th St.

Del Mar City Council: Budget Workshop, Part 2 of 2, Wednesday, May 11th, 4:00 p.m., 240 10th St.

Book Sale! Sunday, May 15th, 8:30-12:00, St. Peter's Church. All proceeds go to the pre-school program in Nambia, Africa.

Community Conversations: Sunday, May 15th, 3:00 p.m., area: Hills South of 15th St. Please rsvp to conversations@delmar.ca.us for location

DMF Children's Committee Meeting and Social: Wednesday, May 18th, Del Mar Library, 9:30 a.m. Join us to help plan future events! Children welcome.

DMCC Jerry Finnell Annual Memorial Beach Walk: Saturday, May 21st beginning at 8:30 a.m. with a 2-mile beach walk from Powerhouse Park to San Dieguito Rivermouth and back; check-in at the North end of Powerhouse Park. Continental breakfast at 9:00 a.m. -Del Mar Lemon Cake will be served at the end of the walk. \$25/adults, \$15/child. #858.792.7565

Design Review Board Meeting: Wednesday, May 25th, 6:00 p.m., 240 10th St.

DM Library: Wednesday, May 25th, 6:30 p.m. PJ Story time. Wear your PJ's to the library for story time!

DMVA Board Meeting: Thursday, May 26th, 8:30 a.m. City Hall Annex.

Community Conversations: Thursday, May 26th, 7:00 p.m., area: 15th St. and Crest. Please rsvp to conversations@delmar.ca.us and the city will email you and exact location/address.

Del Mar Library: Book Talks and Treats, Friday, May 27th, 2:00 p.m. -Readers share reviews and recommendations of recently read books. Copies available for check out. Coffee and snacks.

Extra copies of the *Sandpiper* are available at City Hall, the Chamber of Commerce, the TV Studio, the Library and the Powerhouse.



Shores Property. Photo panorama Art Olson

COMMUNITY VIDEOS

Virginia Lawrence | Caminito Del Rocio

How would you like to watch a San Diego County Superior Court session in which jurors, attorneys, bailiffs, clerks and the defendant are in their teens? What about a licensed nurse training her horse for Search and Rescue in the Sheriff's SAR program, or a Marine Corps Lieutenant Colonel being interviewed for the nightly news by a Del Mar teenager?



SAR Volunteers in training. Courtesy Del Mar TV Foundation.

Perceiving a need in the community, Luana Karr and Meghan Anderson decided to expand Del Mar Television Foundation's video program to include more than just the coverage of local events; they began creating videos whose purpose would be to showcase local residents making a difference, and would inform the public about available volunteer activities. Luana is the project director, while

Meghan, who is DMTV's manager, does the editing and mentors the DMTV interns who participate in the making of these videos. (DMTV accepts applicants for its intern program from UCSD, SDS, USD, Torrey Pines High School, Canyon Crest Academy, and Carlsbad High School.)

On April 4 DMTV added a video-on-demand (VOD) page to its website. Currently available for viewing are the following new videos: the DM Art Center; Del Mar Community Connections, the DM Fairgrounds, Kids News, the DM Junior Lifeguards Program, Save IT for Me, and Teen Justice.

In addition, if you visit DMTV's Vimeo account page, you will be able to view SAR Volunteers to the Rescue, the DM Garden Club, and the most recent DM Art Stroll.

Luana Karr, from Alaska, has a background in theater arts. She got involved with Del Mar TV 10 years ago when she took its studio production class. She is now Project Director for Producers Showcase, and for Kids News.

Meghan Anderson, who majored in visual arts media at UCSD, worked her way up through the ranks at DMTV: intern > crew member for Council meetings > crewing for Time Warner sports at local high school sports events. She has been the station manager for 5 years.

Would YOU like to get involved? You can apply to DMTV's intern program, or you can sign up, as did Luana Karr 10 years ago, for its studio production class. Who knows where this might lead? □

Links and connections:

<http://www.delmartv.com/vod.html>
delmartv@gmail.com
<http://vimeo.com/user5667675/videos/sort:date>

For info about the studio production class and the intern program you can check the website, or email Luana.

CERTAIN PLANS

continued from page 5

your gas shut-off valve red and don't forget a correct fitting wrench!

As I look around my own home, there are several items that could do some real harm – there is the large, unattached mirror propped up on our mantel, and a wood and glass cabinet filled with glass bottles. All of these dangers can be prevented with a little adjustment. The next step is to make the list and then actually practice it, particularly if you have children.

Kerridge gave us valuable pointers such as having a pre-determined meeting spot outside our home so that we can safely account for all family members and don't unnecessarily send someone back into a home that is compromised searching for a loved one who is already safe.

If you haven't already, it's wise to register for reverse 9-1-1 calls and emails and you may also want to register through the City of Del Mar for emergency alerts. You can accomplish this on the city's website.

Now, are you ready, Del Mar? □

WHY WASTE WATER?

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that all restrictions on water use will be removed. Most likely, the County Water Authority will follow this month by removing its drought restrictions also.

This is good news for the region but the need to conserve continues. Over the past three years the cost of wholesale water has increased by over 70% while water use has been reduced by around 32%. Costs will continue to rise significantly over the next few years due to many factors, including the cost of energy to move the water from the Bay Delta to Southern California.

Del Mar has done its part in conserving water during the drought and has helped to fulfill the State's mandate of reducing consumption 20% by the year 2020. We live in an arid region and droughts can reappear quickly so conservation must become the "New Normal," a term being voiced by the County Water Authority and water leadership throughout the state.

Let's all continue to make water conservation a success throughout the region! □

REACH THE BEACH

Stu Smith | Rimini Road

Will it be possible to continue the 55-mile long Coast to Crest trail from Jimmy Durante Blvd. west to the beach? Del Mar residents are meeting with San Dieguito River Park staff trying to come up with an answer. Staff hopes this section of the trail will accommodate hikers, bicyclists and equestrians, reviving earlier times when trainers would bring the racehorses to the beach in the early



Jockey Charlie Wittingham works his horse on a Del Mar Beach. After he won the Caliente Handicap in Tijuana, a lot of DM horsemen started taking their horses to the beach. Courtesy Del Mar Thoroughbred Club.

mornings. But what is the best way to go, on the north or south side of the River?

North of the river, the trail would go west along the southern edge of the Fairgrounds property. The recent certification of the Fairgrounds master plan by the 22nd Agriculture District board on April 18th includes a 100-foot wide greenway, plenty of space for a trail.

But continuing the trail west from the Fairgrounds, after going under the Railroad tracks, becomes more difficult. The trail could continue across the wetlands east of Camino Del Mar with a boardwalk like the one near Jimmy Durante Blvd. bridge. But part of this wetland area is going to be dredged to increase the tidal flow in and out of the lagoon, and it is unlikely that the Coastal Commission would approve a boardwalk across the remaining wetland if other possibilities for the trail location exist. Or, the trail could change direction at the wetlands and move north toward Via de Valle crossing Camino Del Mar to reach the beach.

On the south side of the river there is the existing Del Mar River Path that goes from Jimmy Durante Blvd. west to the Railroad tracks and an informal path continuing beyond to Camino del Mar. However, getting beyond the tracks is a problem because there is not enough clearance to go under the trestle and a pedestrian bridge over the tracks would be expensive and intrusive.

The Park is hoping to finish the "Del Mar section" of the extraordinary Coast to Crest trail, by the end of the year. When the entire 55-miles (as the crow flies) is completed, it will stretch from the beach in Del Mar to the headwaters of the San Dieguito River on Volcan Mountain in the Laguna's. In the meantime reaching the beach is a real challenge. □

DEL MAR LIBRARY EXHIBIT: IMAGES OF AMERICA

The exhibition will display 32 books from Arcadia Publishing Company, including *Del Mar Racetrack*, where the picture above was found. Arcadia Publishing specializes in chronicling the history of local communities and bringing to life the people, places and events of the past. Employing local authors, the books are primarily pictorial histories augmented by expanded captions or short blocks of text. The exhibit will open in May.

FAIRBUCKS

Bud Emerson | Klish Way

The bill authorizing the proposed Del Mar acquisition of the fairgrounds is scheduled to be heard by state legislative committees. The Governor has decided not to sell state office buildings but has not yet focused on fairground facilities (however, his proposed budget eliminates state funds for fairgrounds). Some sources suggest that some number of the current Fair Board members may be replaced soon.

Meanwhile the Sandpiper editors have heard from quite a few people who are supportive of fairgrounds acquisition but worry about the financial viability. The Sandpiper asked

the Mayor and City Manager to answer the most frequently asked questions about their financial projections even though the specific terms of the proposed deal have yet to be finalized.

SP: How would the debt service from the transaction be paid?

Del Mar: Debt service would be paid from revenues from the race track lease, the Fair, and other special events at the fairgrounds.

SP: How would pension liabilities be covered for state employees and union employees?

Del Mar: CalPERS employees could continue to participate in their contract, and would be funded as it is today, through an annual amortization of any unfunded liabilities. □



Del Mar Community Connections

www.dmcc.cc | (858) 792-7565 | heather@dmcc.cc | P.O. Box 2947, Del Mar, CA 92014

Del Mar Community Connections
presents
**The 3rd Annual
Jerry Finnell
Memorial Walk**

**2-mile Beach Walk
Saturday, May 21, 2011
8:30 a.m.**

8:30 Continental Breakfast & Check-In
Powerhouse Park - North End
1600 block Coast Blvd, Del Mar
9:00 Walk begins

Walk route: Powerhouse Park to River Mouth & back
Van available at 29th St. for 1-way walkers

\$25 Adult / \$15 Children
DMCC Shirts Available for Purchase
Canine friends on a leash are welcome

Please remember to bring chairs, hats, sunscreen and water, if desired.
Finish your walk with a slice of Del Mar's famous lemon cake!

3 ways to register:
Complete registration form and mail with check to:
DMCC, PO Box 2947, Del Mar, CA 92014
Register online at www.dmcc.cc
Register at the event

Second Annual Jerry Finnell Memorial Walk Registration Form

First Name:	Last Name:
Address:	
City:	State: Zip Code:
Daytime Phone:	
Email:	

 Del Mar Community Connections <small>PO Box 2947 Del Mar, CA 92014 www.dmcc.cc 858-792-7565</small>	Entry Fee - Adult \$25; Child \$15 \$
	I won't be able to attend. Enclosed is my donation: \$
	Total Enclosed: \$

AGREEMENT OF RELEASE AND WAIVER OF LIABILITY (All Participants must sign)

[PRINT NAME OF PARTICIPANT], hereby agree to the following: 1. That I am participating in the JERRY FINNELL MEMORIAL WALK, sponsored by Del Mar Community Connections, (the "Walk"). I recognize that during the Walk, I may be sheltered by the DMCC van and walking along the beach I recognize that I may be exposed to external hazards, and that the Walk will require physical exertion which may be strenuous and may cause physical injury, and I am aware of the risks and hazards involved. 2. I understand that it is my responsibility to consult with a physician prior to and regarding my participation in the Walk. I represent and warrant that I am physically fit and I have no medical conditions which would prevent my full participation in the Walk. 3. In consideration of being permitted to participate in the Walk, I agree to assume full responsibility for any risks, injuries, damages, losses or expenses, which I might incur as a result of participating in the Walk. 4. In further consideration of being permitted to participate in the Walk, I knowingly, voluntarily and expressly waive any claims I may have against Del Mar Community Connections, their officers, directors, and volunteers, The City of Del Mar, The California State Parks, The San Diego and any other person acting for or on behalf of any of them (all of the foregoing, the "Releasees"), for injury or damages that I may sustain as a result of participating in the Walk. 5. My heirs and legal representatives, forever release, waive, discharge and covenant not to sue any of the Releasees for any injury or death caused by their negligence or other acts. I have read the above release and waiver of liability and fully understand its contents. I voluntarily agree to the terms and conditions stated above.

IF THE PARTICIPANT IS A MINOR, THIS FORM MUST BE SIGNED BY A PARENT OR LEGAL GUARDIAN.

Signature:	Date:
Printed Name of Parent or Guardian (if applicable):	
Witnessed By:	Date:

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www.delmarsandpiper.org

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COUNTDOWN

Dave Druker | 10th Street

The census has arrived, the census has arrived! And again Del Mar has lost population. The usual explanation for this loss is due to more people making Del Mar their second, third or fourth home. But I am sure that Dr. Rich will have a better explanation based upon black holes and alien abduction.

While the rest of San Diego County gained population between 1990 and 2000 Del Mar and Coronado lost population in 2000. In 2010 Del Mar was joined by Solana Beach and Imperial Beach.

Del Mar's population for the past 5 decades

	Population	Change
1960	3,124	
1970	3,956	26.63%
1980	5,017	26.82%
1990	4,860	-3.13%
2000	4,389	-9.69%
2010	4,161	-5.20%

The population characteristics of Del Mar are very different from the rest of the county. In 2010, the number of non-white people in San Diego County has surpassed the number of white people by a small number 1,500,323 vs 1,500,047.

In the table below the comparisons between the racial profiles of San Diego County, Solana Beach and Del Mar are displayed.

	Del Mar	Solana Beach	San Diego County
White	91.00%	77.00%	48.46%
Hispanic	4.00%	16.00%	32.03%
Black	<1%	<1%	4.74%
American Indian	<1%	<1%	0.45%
Asian	3.00%	4.00%	10.6%
Hawaii/Pacific Islander	<1%	<1%	0.44%
Other	3.00%	3.00%	0.20%

In future articles the comparison of educational attainment, income and age distribution will be explored. □



Photo panorama Art Olson