

SANDPIPER

SEEKING SQUEAKY CLEAN

Mikhail Ogawa, Del Mar Clean Water Manager

What is the Clean Water Program?

The Clean Water Program is both a requirement and pro-active approach to limiting pollutants in our lagoons and Pacific Ocean. The program is a requirement of Federal and State laws that address municipal, construction, business and residential activities.

Our program has several core activities centered on preventing pollutants from entering the storm drains. While it may seem harmless to hose down a driveway or the sidewalk, that water can pick up pollutants along the way and dump them onto our beaches or into our lagoons. That water can also promote bacteria growth in our pipes that discharges when it rains.

In order to check up on our community and to make sure folks are protective of our environment, our program focuses on: 1) inspections & education; 2) water quality monitoring to identify potential issues, and; 3) reducing adverse impacts from development projects.

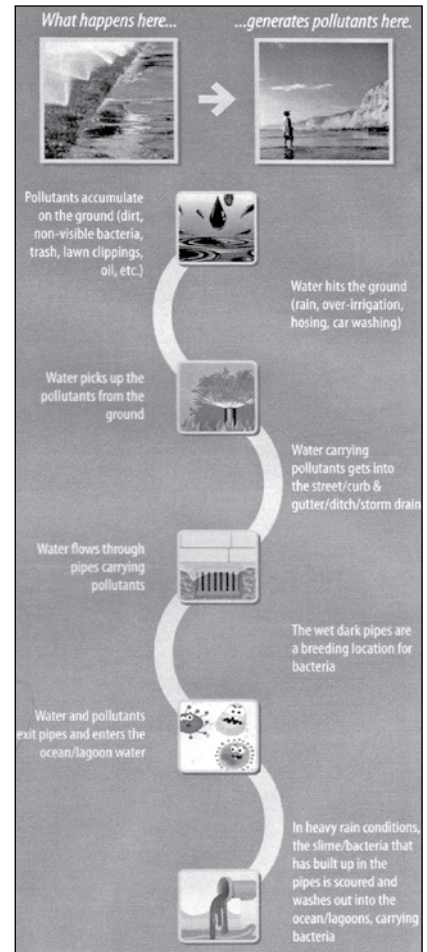
In addition to Del Mar's activities, we partner with neighboring jurisdictions to address issues that have watershed-wide impacts. This is particularly important to Del Mar as we are the "end of the line" for rainfall that originates 50 miles to the east. Upstream pollutants eventually make their way to San Dieguito and Los Peñasquitos lagoons and beaches.

Our program is funded by a fee that is associated with your water bill. We are managing the program in a manner that maximizes our accomplishments. We are continuing to look for ways in which we can accomplish more pollution prevention with our funds. If you have any ideas – please contact the program at cleanwater@delmar.ca.us

Successes

Del Mar has been successfully fulfilling the responsibilities of the program requirements for the past 10 years, and evidence of our success comes in many forms, both internally and externally. We are seeing better understanding

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Graphic courtesy Del Mar Staff

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No decibel deficit! page 3



Photo Art Olson

DEL MAR TALENT BANK

One of Del Mar's most valuable assets is the involvement of so many talented citizens on boards and committees. These volunteers bring a wealth of experience and expertise to the Council decision process. Hiring staff or consultants with that much talent would be way beyond our financial wherewithal. Those in our community who have these talents/expertise are very busy professionals. It is amazing that they value community so much that they are willing to carve out volunteer time. Citizen involvement is unique and many communities find positions open for a long time because folks don't care about their towns/cities.

Council Members Haydu and Sinnott, recognizing that value, are recommending a revitalization of our citizen committee process as well as other citizen involvement strategies. We applaud that recommendation. An effort should be made to clarify the role and expectations of each

committee. Council Members who are assigned as liaisons to each committee should be diligent in communicating Council needs and priorities. Council Members should be conversant with the efforts of each committee to assure that their efforts bring relevant input to Council decision processes.

These groups should be respected as valuable members of our governmental machinery. Of course, final decision making lies in the hands of our elected officials, but often the best ideas, information, and analysis comes from citizen committees who have taken the time and care to do their homework.

Not all Councils have valued this kind of informed input. It is quite common for elected official egos to get impatient with the time and complexity needed to factor in citizen input, the "we were elected so we know it all" syndrome.

Del Mar has a long and enviable record of accomplishment, most of which has been guided by vigorous citizen involvement. Let's not lose that tradition. Let's not squander the willingness of intelligent, articulate citizens to serve on such committees. We urge this Council to implement the Haydu/Sinnott proposals. ■

Note: Haydu/Sinnott proposals on page 7.



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.
- Publication of any letters or articles in either print or web editions is at the discretion of the editorial board

Send to:

The Sandpiper, Box 2177, Del Mar, CA 92014; or
editor@delmarsandpiper.org

JUST DO IT!

I certainly agree with Sam Borgese's comments that now is the time to move on to implementation, not more studies. The City has shelled out hundreds of thousands of dollars on planning reports that have created stacks of paperwork many feet high. But, for the most part, if at all, we have never moved on to the implementation stage, mostly due to "lack of funds." If we want to get visitors and residents moving up and down Camino Del Mar from one end of the commercial district to the other, why not pull out those Streetscape plans and pick a project to make it happen. An excellent example of a project we did implement quickly was the Sideway Café ordinance. More of that kind of action, please. It saved many of our restaurants and increased the city's tax revenue.

There are planned upcoming meetings to once again begin a search to the ultimate answer to just what the downtown commercial area should become as we move forward. The City Council will, in the near future and after hearings at the Planning Commission level, begin to analyze just what should go into a future Specific Plan and how it should be implemented over time. This will take money, lots of Staff time and also an environmental impact report before it would be ready for approval by the City Council. After that, it will have to meet the expectations of our residents by a vote of the people, probably sometime in the next two years or so. If it is not approved by a majority of our voting public, it will fail and all of the work will be lost, just like the undergrounding district vote did. Let's hope we get it right this time!

Hershell Price, Grand Avenue

KUDOS!

Congratulations on yet another great edition of the Sandpiper. You consistently put out a quality journal, with well-written, accurate and timely articles. The July edition sets the bar even higher. I loved the Garbage Day poem interspersed with the news.

I used to cite the [Martha's] Vineyard Gazette as the finest local paper I'd ever seen (it helped that it was published by the Reston family of the New York Times fame), but now I consider the Sandpiper the absolute tops. By the way, the Gazette recently sold for \$2 million so I'll watch for a Sandpiper IPO!

Adam Birnbaum, Del Mar Planning Manager

WEEZER'S PORK AND BEANS

One Saturday evening this summer, my family is sitting around the kitchen counter eating dinner when we hear some very loud, somewhat muddled music blasting through our open windows.

At first, I thought it was a neighbor throwing a raging party, and then I thought it was coming from the Plaza or perhaps a concert in the park. My oldest son deduced that it was the band Weezer—one of his favorites—and we all realized that a band of this popularity could only be playing at the fairgrounds, but it wasn't Friday night? It was a Saturday.

We hopped in our golf cart to investigate and ended up at the

cul-de-sac at the top of Serpentine. Sure enough, Weezer was playing at the fairgrounds and we were all singing along from the cheap seats.

Soon enough other neighbors began showing up to see what was going on too. One couple heard the music all the way from their home at 9th and Hoska!

I'm all for pork and beans—a Weezer hit—but can they turn it down a notch?

Yours in decibel reduction, Piper Underwood, Rimini Road

LOUDS!

As long-time Del Mar residents who have the good fortune of living at the northern end of the town, on the hill where views are good and the neighborhood tranquil, we have been – almost literally – stunned by the noise levels of the amplified entertainment at the Fairgrounds this year. Beginning on Friday afternoon, July 29, the roar of amplifiers on steroids shattered the day and the evening calm. It went on for a long time. Saturday afternoon brought more of the same as did the evening.

When I called the Sheriff's phone number, as listed for Del Mar issues, I was told, and very politely, I should say, that the Fairground activities were "permitted activity." "Surely," I said, "any permission is granted with boundary conditions?"

The officer said that she could ask a patrolman to call us, but that it was probable he would say the same thing: the activity has been permitted.

Now, I was not objecting to the idea that entertainment is a reasonable part of the Fairground's activity. No, it is rather the completely unnecessary (and one would venture, unhealthy) sound pressure level of the electronically amplified music that is intolerable. It is simply not necessary for the ground to shake and spectators to endure ear-blistering loudness levels for an audience to be satisfied. It is clear that no one is monitoring event amplification, and there are, or certainly should be, limits on what is allowable.

During the periods indicated above, with our windows closed, the Fairground sound interrupted and made unpleasant even the watching of evening television programs.

It is my strong suggestion and hope that the Fairgrounds management can be induced by persuasion or penalties to mend its ways for its Del Mar neighbors. Enjoying the horses – or music, for that matter – simply does not require such unreasonable playback levels. Any competent technician can devise playback strategies that will serve a playback venue without impacting those who have (or want to have) other things on their minds and in their ears.

If noise matters to you, make your concerns known. The appropriate contact for 22nd District Agricultural Association (DAA) is: Tim Fennell, CEO, Del Mar Fairgrounds, 2260 Jimmy Durante Boulevard, Del Mar, California 92014-2216. Phone: (858) 755-1161.

Also: City of Del Mar Code Enforcement, Patty Malik: (858) 755-9313, ext. 171 and code@delmar.ca.us

Roger Reynolds, Serpentine Drive

ASK DR. RICH!

Rich Simons | 11th Street

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



Photo illustration Art Olson

Q- A recent article in the "Sandpiper" reported that there is an increase in the number of pelicans on our shoreline this year. What is your explanation for this? - s.p.

First of all, as noted in that same article – more study is needed.

Why? Because biologists are people and they have families to support.

They too need jobs, jobs, jobs. Researchers should all receive grants at least until their children are out of college.

That being said, we the people should be prepared to assign blame in this matter in the off chance that they may actually come up with something.

The Blame Game:

The easiest target when it comes to blame is of course **global warming**, which takes it on the chin daily for everything from Padres baseball to congestion on I-15. In the case of pelicans, we can postulate that as their favorite habitats in Central America have boiled over they have migrated north to La Jolla Cove. Eventually, when La Jolla turns into Kuwait City, they will again head north, to Alaska, to interbreed with the Lapland Longspur.

Another easy mark in the blame game is **loss of habitat**. From here you don't have to look far to see the

Mexican Tourism Bureau filling up their entire coastline with those damn timeshare high-rises.

Next on our list of culprits would be **lack of natural predators**. For this, the finger of guilt points directly at the EPA, which banned the chemical DDT when it was doing a marvelous job of keeping these pests in check.

Finally, the blame for our pelican plethora can be laid squarely at the feet of the **Fish and Game people**, who have created all these marine life reserves, which are nothing more than free lunch counters for pelicans.

How You Can Help:

Many citizens living near the coast have expressed their outrage over the increased pelican "droppings" on their patios and decks. Some have suggested that the pelicans should be outfitted with some kind of special underwear. We don't need to go there, as this topic has already been dealt with in John Grisham's brilliant monograph "The Pelican Briefs."

But concerned citizens can help scientists as follows: mark off your decks/patios/lawns in squares one cubit by one cubit (cubits? seems appropriate). Note daily the number of new white "splats" on your deck/patio/lawn. Divide by the number of squares. That will give you your SPDPSC. Chart carefully. About the time your kids get out of college you will be able to draw a straight line on your chart, preferably through the origin, which is after all the main purpose of science.

And the Final Word – but NOT by Ogden Nash!:

A wonderful bird is a pelican,
His bill will hold more than his belican
He can take in his beak
Food enough for a week;
But I'm damned if I see how the helican.

-"The Pelican" (1910) by Dixon Lanier Merritt □



Painting Don Coordt

FABRIQUÉ EN FRANCE

Virginia Lawrence, from the Haute Savoie

For the September issue of the Sandpiper the layout was outsourced to a little-known firm in the French Alps. This 300-year-old French farmhouse, located just to the south of the Lac d'Annecy in the French Alps, got indoor plumbing only in 1989, but on August 24, 2011, the layout for the print issue of the September Sandpiper was beamed via the Internet from behind the middle window to Del Mar Blue for printing.

A typical French farmhouse houses everything under one roof: a haybarn up top, a cowbarn and a hencoop behind the kitchen, a grainery beyond the living room, and a wine cellar under the main living quarters. There is a massive sooty chimney at the back of the kitchen where the farmers smoked their pigs.

Like many of the farmhouses built at this time, this one had no foundation - it was just dug into the side of the hill. In the back bedroom the floorboards had rotted out right down to the earth. There is a spring in the dirt floor of the cellar, and when it rains the cellar becomes a lagoon.

The Alp on which this house is located is a modest 1000 meters high, surrounded by taller cousins rising to 2000 meters. As the crow flies it's only 25 miles from Albertville,



Photo Virginia Lawrence

where the winter Olympics were held in 1992, and only 10 miles from Talloires, where Ex-President Jean-Claude "Baby Doc" Duvalier resided in splendid exile for 25 years after he was overthrown by a popular uprising in Haiti.

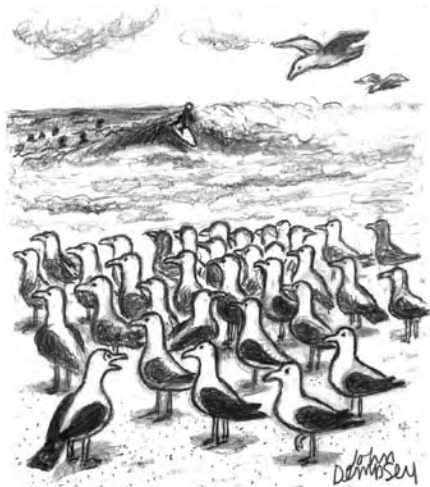
To get up to this house in winter, snowshoes become a necessity. It can take 36 hours to heat the living quarters with the two wood stoves, but the 3-foot-thick stone walls are capable of holding the heat for a week. ■

SEEKING SQUEAKY CLEAN

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of the Clean Water issues from our community. Folks know the message we are conveying and are putting it to practice. We are also receiving calls from the community to inquire about the "right way" to clean their businesses or wash their vehicles. From the external perspective, we are continuing to receive a consistent A or A+ rating from the Heal the Bay Beach Report Card (www.healthebay.org). We recently received a letter from Coastkeeper commending us on the thoroughness of the commercial and industrial aspect of our program.

Because we don't want to rest on our laurels of success, the City continues to focus on activities that can make measurable differences in our water quality. We are initiating a field approach that puts our staff out and about to identify issues and then help to resolve the problems. This includes more proactive field time and monitoring. So if you see our staff, give us a wave hello - we are helping to keep our waters clean. ■



"Heard the latest? We're being accused of polluting the beach. Because we poop on it."

REDISTRICTING CHANGES CRAWFORD'S PLANS

Dear Delmarians,

Redistricting has put Del Mar in the new 78th AD, which will be represented by Assembly Member Toni Atkins, who was elected to the Assembly just last November. I supported Toni while she served on the San Diego City Council, and I worked with her on a number of issues when we each served at SANDAG. I respect Toni's work on education, transportation, and housing. She is in a leadership position in the State Assembly, and I am proud to support her reelection.

I enjoyed my many years of public service on the Del Mar City Council and the spirited exchanges that our community provides. We should be proud of how, even though we are a small city with limited resources, we continue to protect our natural environment and provide reliable public safety services for not only the residents of Del Mar but for our many visitors.

I look forward to another opportunity to serve the residents of Del Mar in the future.

Crystal Crawford, former City Council Member

LET'S GET SPECIFIC!

Kathy Garcia, Planning and Community Development Director

In July, the Del Mar City Council took another step forward in the Village Revitalization process directing staff to prepare a Specific Plan for the Village Center. The Specific Plan process is seen as the most appropriate tool to advance the goals of the Community Plan, and Del Mar is familiar with the Specific Plan process. Since the passage of Measure B, applicants have prepared and voters have approved three Specific Plans: the Plaza, the Del Mar Hotel (L'Auberge) and most recently, the Garden Del Mar.

Specific Plans are prepared for the systematic implementation of the General Plan goals and become the special set of development standards that apply to a particular geographical area, in this case Del Mar Village between 9th and 15th along Camino del Mar. Their preparation is regulated by Government Code §65450 and they are akin to a zoning ordinance. When the Del Mar Community Plan was adopted in 1976, and amended in 1985, the creation and adoption of a Specific Plan was suggested for the Village Center. At that time, as it is now, the Village Center was recognized as an area of Del Mar that demands specific planning attention that cannot otherwise be provided through conventional zoning.

6-Block Parcels

The Village Center Specific Plan will be somewhat different from the other Specific Plans in Del Mar. In this case, the City is leading the effort by planning for a six-block "parcel" in advance of property owners or developers proposing their designs. This way, much of the public realm, or streetscape along Camino del Mar, will be addressed to the same degree as the private property. This will determine the layout of on-street parking, planted areas and streetscape amenities. On the private property, building "envelopes" will be determined to set the maximum footprint, mass and height. Allowed uses will be defined and located to reinforce pedestrian activities along the sidewalk. Because the final building designs won't be developed until there is a development application, it is anticipated that Del Mar's Design Review will still be responsible for protecting existing residential views and assessing the mass and scale to protect the community



2011 Recommended Village Center Area

character, as envisioned by the Community Plan.

Both the Planning Commission and the Design Review Board have provided feedback on the Specific Plan. With Council's direction, city staff has been busy developing alternatives based upon the spring Community Conversations. These options will come back for additional community input during the fall, when we plan to initiate the environmental review process.

The City's website has been updated with information on the Village Center and the Specific Plan. Click on "Village Revitalization" on the home page or visit: <http://www.delmar.ca.us/Government/Pages/VillageRevitalization.aspx>. We welcome your comments and can place you on our email list, please let us know at conversations@delmar.ca.us. □

SOUTHERN ANCHOR

Dave Druker | 10th Street

Recently, the Del Mar City Council discussed the purchase of some trailers to be abandoned by the Del Mar Union School District as they move to new offices in the Del Mar Heights/Carmel Valley area. The council decided not to make the purchase but this highlights a missed opportunity as the Council pursues grander plans.

For the past 2 ½ years the city council has pursued a plan to provide a framework and now a specific plan for the redevelopment of the downtown area between 15th and 9th Streets. While these plans are interesting, there

ultimately is no means to ensure that that any plan will be implemented because:

- The city does not have control of the property.
- The owners of the property may have no incentive to redevelop.
- There is no economic plan to ensure that the development will be successful.

Meanwhile, there are no specific plans for the two properties that the City has control over – the City Hall site and the Shores Property. The City Hall property in many ways is key to the development of the downtown area as it can provide "an anchor" for the south end of town. The anchor concept has been floated many times

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MAKE DEL MAR BETTER AT BEING DEL MAR

Bud Emerson | Klish Way

Fifty-six year old interim Del Mar City Manager Mark Ochenduzko is "in the saddle" again after retiring from 20 years of managing in quite a number of California cities, most recently in Coronado. He finds the work "stimulating" and brings "passion for "moving Del Mar down the road," but he will not be a candidate for the permanent job. A contract for recruiting a new city manager has already been signed.



Photo Art Olson

Having him here for six months is like having a high powered consultant to take an objective look at how we are meeting some big challenges. So the Sandpiper interviewed him about his early impressions.

"Mark O" is very impressed with the quality of Del Mar city staff, their expertise, and that "they really want to serve Del Mar."

He appreciates our problem of dealing with an independent and unaccountable Fair Board. In Coronado their "hundred pound gorilla is the Navy but we were fortunate that they had a defined program and methodology for communicating with the city and the region...and they understand accountability."

He assesses our financial condition as "fine, not strong but healthy...revenues exceed expenses...enough to deliver basic services...a sufficient reserve...not nearly enough to meet all of our important capital projects."

He believes the Council is right to make revitalization a first priority but we need to "strike a gentle balance" preserving what is unique about Del Mar while "creating a receptive environment for small businesses." He believes "Bird Rock got it right but La Jolla went too far." He wants to see a "traffic analysis to help strike a balance between pedestrian uses and auto traffic to feed businesses...with ideal speeds of 22-27 mph."

He thinks the city can provide "streetscape, civic uses, paving, modest increases in building heights, set backs, sidewalks"--we should look for "pedestrian scale and beware of canyonization." We must not "lose sight of the special ambience that Del Mar already has...make Del Mar better at being Del Mar."

Mark O believes the most effective way to run a city is employing the "Council/Manager model" where the Council listens to citizens and sets policies but leaves freedom for the professional managers and staff to implement. Del Mar presents some unique challenges in

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CITIZEN VOICES

Terry Sinnott, Del Mar City Council

Open, transparent government is a necessity for our community. Del Mar provides a unique opportunity for citizens to be involved in all phases of City government. But to be involved people need to know what is going on. The City currently provides a great deal of information on its website. You can see agendas, staff reports, and even view streaming videos of meetings at the City. A new Update from the City Manager provides a weekly status report of progress at City Hall. This is all very positive.

But during the last campaign for City Council, a common criticism I heard from residents was that the City was conducting too much business behind closed doors, and we as a Council should get out into the community and communicate more what is going on.

Lee Haydu and I have taken this criticism to heart. We have been working on ways the City could improve the two-way communication between City Council members and our residents.

We have identified three improvements we have proposed to Council.

First, the Council should regularly hold neighborhood meetings throughout the year to share information, hear from residents their concerns and answer questions. The meetings would be small, informal get-togethers, hosted in a home, and attended by neighbors. Each meeting would be facilitated by two City Council members. We could schedule one meeting a month throughout the year and cover all the neighborhoods of the City.

Second, we should strengthen the ties between the City Council and the 9 Advisory Committees and 12 non-profit organizations in Del Mar. Two Council members are assigned to each committee/organization as "liaisons." We propose that each year the liaisons work with each group to prepare a one page work plan that describes how the committee or organization can contribute to City projects and priorities.

Third, develop a web-polling tool to allow the City to post questions on the web and register public opinion on current issues and proposals.

We presented these three ideas to Council on August 8th. The Council was supportive, but with reservations. There was concern whether residents would attend neighborhood meetings with Council members. Some Council members were cautious about making the work plans too detailed or restrictive. And members correctly pointed out that polling has limited value unless it is professionally designed and implemented. So we will work to revise our proposal to address these concerns and bring the ideas back to Council for further consideration.

What do you think? We value your input. Let your Council know by phone or email. ■

THE WIDE WIDE WORLD OF I-5

Dennis E. Ridz, Chair Torrey Pines Community Planning Board (TPCPB);

Caltrans Math

The California Department of Transportation – District 11 (Caltrans) issued its Draft Environmental Impact Report (DEIR) for the Interstate-5 North Coast Corridor Project (I-5 NCC) on July 2, 2010. With over 5,000 public and municipal responses to this DEIR by the November 22, 2010 deadline, Caltrans is still working on answering all the environmental issues raised during this response period. In July 2011, Caltrans selected its preferred alternative from the various alternatives included in the I-5 NCC and will re-circulate a revised DEIR in the summer of 2012.

The proposed I-5 North Coast Corridor Project provides one No Build alternative and four build alternatives along a 27-mile section of I-5, beginning at La Jolla Village Drive in San Diego and ending at Harbor Boulevard in the City of Oceanside at post mile 28.4/55.4. The 10+4 with Barrier Alternative is estimated to cost \$4.3 billion while the least costly, Build Alternative, 8+4 with Buffer, is estimated to cost \$3.3 billion.

The so-called No Build Alternative actually includes a number of construction projects including, interchange/operations/adjacent projects that would move forward under separate environmental documents. The I-5/SR-56 Interchange Improvements include the alternative, dubbed the “70 foot Flyover,” adjacent to Pointe Del Mar and Portofino Circle. This project has been the subject of numerous Caltrans and Torrey Pines Community meetings and included a 3-d animation of the entire project including the 40 feet high retaining wall.

Alternative, 8+4(+3)

Caltrans selected the Build Alternative, 8+4 with Buffer for the I-5 section between Carmel Valley Road and Via de La Valle. Currently, this section of I-5 is at 8+2+2. Eight (8) General

Purpose Lanes, two (2) HOV lanes, and two (2) Auxiliary lanes. The TPCPB asked Mr. Allan Kosup, Director of the I-5 & SR-76 Corridor, to please define what the 8+4 selection would look like. He told us that the two existing North and South bound HOV lanes would be converted to Express lanes with the addition of one more Express lane on each side of I-5. The existing auxiliary lanes will remain and in the northbound direction an auxiliary lane will be added from the northbound bypass. So the 8+4 with Buffer, will actually be 8+4+3. Mr. Kosup cautioned that this does not include the I-5/SR-56 Connector project which is planned for release for public comment in the spring of 2012.

Footprint Width

The I-5/SR-56 Connector project has several alternatives and would add at least two more lanes on each side of I-5. The Direct Access Road (DAR) into the Del Mar Fairgrounds is not included in the I-5 NCC and may require additional lanes to support the DARs. The City of Del Mar is in discussions with SANDAG and Caltrans regarding the possible build out of the DAR's into the Fairgrounds as a way to relieve traffic congestion during events like the County Fair and Del Mar Racing season.

The TPCPB raised the issue of highway width and expansion of the bridge over the San Dieguito River Valley with Mr. Arturo Jacobo, I-5 Project Manager. The response was that “the exact dimension of the freeway widening will be determined in the design phase.” That is certainly a fair statement but does not answer the question at this point in time. The DEIR I-5 NCC indicated that the bridge would be widened by 39 feet on both sides of the river. The impact of a possible DAR into the Fairgrounds might require an even larger footprint and expansion of the bridge. I wish to stress that the Caltrans officials have tried to answer all are questions as best as they can and we appreciate their professionalism and candor.

This has been only a short briefing on the I-5 NCC project which will shape our communities and impact our rich environmentally sensitive resources for decades to come. If you wish to know more contact the Sandpiper editors and request follow-up articles. ■

SOUTHERN ANCHOR

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in prior vision documents. Most likely the plan for the City Hall property would need to go to a vote and if the Garden Del Mar project is used as a framework for planning – the vote will be overwhelmingly in favor. Also as a Downtown Specific Plan is created, the City Hall site should be a key to the development of the rest of downtown.

The Shores property in turn is another key to the south end of town. The council needs to work the residents to determine the future of the property and how to implement the vision of open space that was used as a motivation for fundraising along with the final portion being paid for by the city through the sale of the Balboa property.

Once these plans, including new parking, are set the city can implement them, rather than waiting for another property owner to step up and make the changes identified by the Downtown Specific Plan. ■

MAKE DEL MAR BETTER AT BEING DEL MAR

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that regard he thinks because of the “incredible level of citizen participation.” He thinks both the “Council and the Manager have to be flexible.” Compared to “Coronado where there is a strong retired Navy presence that is used to the chain of command, we can’t control as much--there are many free thinkers in Del Mar, creative citizens doing sophisticated analysis--the Council and the Manager have to adjust to a different kind of relationship with the public.”

Asked by the Sandpiper if he would give us his best advice when he leaves at the end of his six month term he said “of course, but I will give you one piece of advice now. It is time to move to implementation downtown. There are enough studies and plans. Forge a general consensus. If you try to reach unanimity on every detail right it will be hard to get from the study stage to getting it done.” ■

BEACH WATCH

Jon Edelbrock, Del Mar Lifeguard Sergeant

Every day Community Service employees receive a plethora of questions, complaints and comments concerning the issues at our beach community. Some of my favorite topics concern comparisons between summers, the Del Mar surf, the weather conditions, crowd size, and the number of ocean rescues. While I can offer Sandpiper readers my personal opinions, it is more reliable to refer to the Lifeguard Department's 46 years of statistics recorded in our logbooks.



from the Sandpiper archives

The summer of 2011 has been a stark contrast to the gloomy summer of 2010. Let's take a look at the periods between June 1 and August 15.

Comparing the months of June (2010-11) the average weather conditions remained similar throughout the month. However the water was nearly 2.5 degrees cooler this year. Given this fact you might assume that stingrays, who are attracted to warmer water conditions, would be more prevalent in 2010 yet this summer we have seen 4 times the number of stingray wounds treated by lifeguards. Other variables, that affect this increase in wounds, are the increase in number of visitors to our beaches as well as the effects of inshore energy (because the higher energy generally equates to fewer stingrays that actually can make it to the shore).

The month of July offers us a stark contrast between last summer and this one. By all weather accounts, the conditions were more "beach friendly" this year. There were 26 cloudy mornings in 2010 and this summer there were less than half of that. I'm going to guess that we also seem to have many more clear afternoons too. I feel confident saying that the water temperatures were actually 4 degrees higher this July.

Visitor totals were over 30% higher, while ocean rescues were five times higher than in 2010. With increased numbers of beach visitors this year it then follows that parking citations have seen a slight increase and this was verified by Lieutenant Eric Sandy, our parking officer.

This August has started out to be very similar to our June with temperatures plummeting 8 degrees overnight

on July 31st. We note that air and skies appear to be almost identical as well. Many comments at the beach disparage the coastal weather this summer. We were certainly spoiled from 2006-09 where we enjoyed 80% air temperatures and 70-degree water temperatures daily. Let's hope for a glorious September and give thanks for our mild climate. ■



25 YEARS OLD!

Del Mar Farmers Market is one of San Diego's Original markets, second in the county behind Vista. Established in the fall of 1986 by seven local women: Marti Kaye, Ann Silber, Joyce Malone, Lorraine Rouse, Alice Goodkind, Nancy Weare and Sharon Fierabend. Their vision was not to turn a profit, but to bring the concept of healthy living to Del Mar, and to make the connection between the local farms and the local community. These women also had the vision to create a nonprofit market with 100% of net profits going back into the community. This year the market has supported the Del Mar Library, Community Connections, the construction of the Community Services/Lifeguard Headquarters, the San Dieguito River Valley Conservancy and scholarships for students of farmers who are part of the DMFM community.

In honor of the 25th Anniversary, please visit the market and enjoy special events planned for September:

September 10th:

Cooking with fresh ingredients from the market:
1-2:30pm, Chef and Owner, Randy Gruber, Americana
Live Music 1-2pm with Kyra Grove
Scavenger Hunt for Kids

September 17th:

Cooking with fresh ingredients from the market: Chef and Owner Bratzo Basagoitia, Café Secret
Live music
Composting Demonstration by Hidden Resources
Scavenger Hunt for Kids

September 24th:

Cooking with fresh ingredients from the market: Chef Bryan Graham, Sbicca
Live Music with Peter Seltser
Composting Demonstration by Carol Graham
Flower Care and Arranging with Owner Helen Park, Del Mar Flower Company
Planting for Kids with the Del Mar Garden Club
Market Hours: Saturday 1-4pm
10th Street, City Hall Parking Lot
Walk or carpool if you can!

www.delmarfarmersmarket.org ■

LINES OF POWER

Dave Druker | 10th Street

The final maps for the new Assembly, State Senate and Congressional Districts were published on Monday, June 10. A non-partisan commission has been holding hearings across the state to determine the boundaries. The maps for San Diego County have not substantially changed. The maps for Del Mar are unchanged from the preliminary maps.

State Assembly Districts

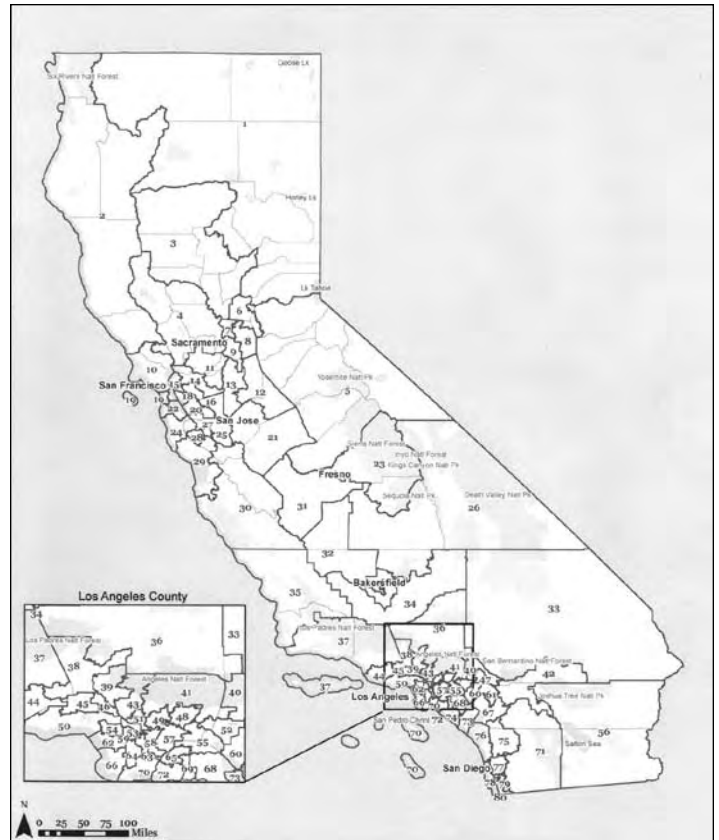
For State Assembly, Del Mar is now included in an Assembly district that stretches from Solana Beach and Rancho Santa Fe through La Jolla (along the coast) to San Diego south of Balboa and east to I-15 and then south through downtown San Diego to Coronado. This district is currently mostly represented by Toni Atkins – a former San Diego City Councilmember. This district has a larger number of registered Democrats than Republicans. Toni Aktins will run for reelection in this area. The current district of Martin Garrick now includes Encinitas, Carlsbad, Oceanside and Vista – a solidly Republican district. In 2012 this district will have an open seat as Martin Garrick has “termed out.”

State Senate Districts

For State Senate, Del Mar is now in a district that encompasses the Assembly district and also includes National City, Chula Vista and Imperial Beach. This district includes areas represented by Christine Kehoe and Juan Vargas. In 2012, Christine will be “termed out” and based upon the preliminary maps for Congressional Districts and that Bob Filner announced that he will run for the mayor of the City of San Diego, Juan Vargas will run for Congress in a district that encompasses most of south San Diego County and all of Imperial County. Our State Senate district will most likely have an open seat. Assemblyman Marty Block is the likely Democratic candidate for that seat. The district has a much larger number of registered Democrats than Republicans.

State Congressional Districts

For Congress Del Mar has been included in a district that runs from the Orange County border through most of Fallbrook, all of Oceanside, Vista, Carlsbad, Encinitas, Rancho Santa Fe (almost east to Escondido), Solana Beach through Torrey Pines Mesa and UCSD and the commercial section of UTC. Some of this district is represented by Darrell Issa and he will seek reelection in this district. The district has a much larger number of registered Republicans than Democrats.



California State Assembly Districts

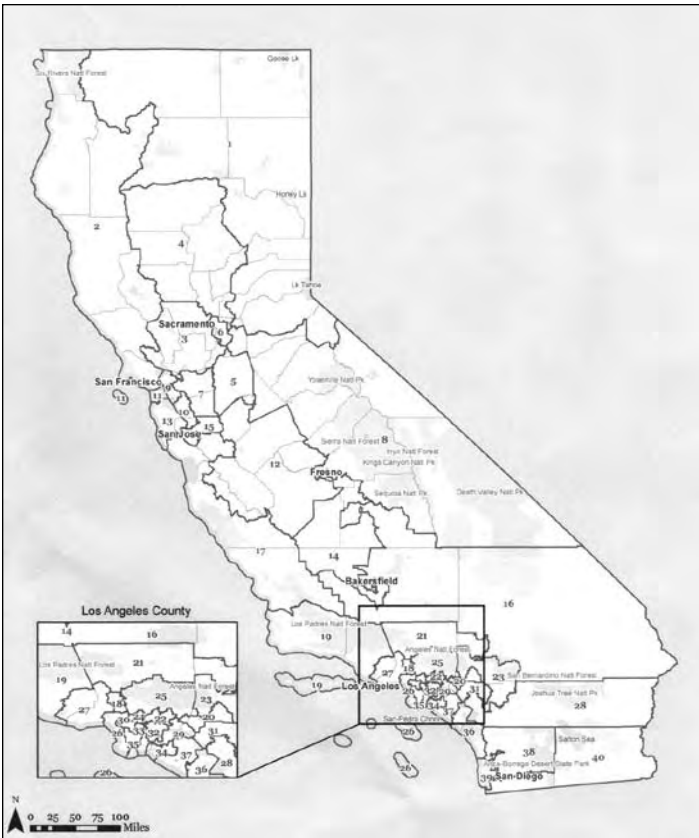
New District for Bilbray

Formerly, Del Mar was in the 50th District represented by Republican Brian Bilbray. The district encompassed Carlsbad, San Marcos, Encinitas, Solana Beach, Rancho Santa Fe, Carmel Valley, coastal La Jolla and much of the Clairmont area. The new 52nd district has moved to the south and now includes Carmel Valley, Rancho Penasquitos, Poway, the city of San Diego through Kearney Mesa, Serra Mesa, Linda Vista, La Jolla, Pacific Beach, downtown San Diego and Coronado. The district is pretty much evenly divided between registered Republicans and Democrats. Brian Bilbray has recently moved to Clairmont and will seek reelection in this new district. On the Democratic side – Lori Saldena a former Assembly member in this district has stated she will run. Bob Nascenzi a business person living in Carmel Valley has also formed a committee to run. Scott Peters a former San Diego City Council member is polling to see if he has enough support to win the seat. This will be a very hotly contested seat given the registration numbers.

Maps in more detail

To look at the final maps in more detail visit the website of the California Redistricting commission at

www.wedrawthelines.ca.gov/maps-preliminary-final-drafts.html ■



California State Senate Districts



California State Congressional Districts

MONEY TALK 101

Teresa McBroome, Accounting Manager/City Treasurer

The City is projecting stable revenues with modest increases for the current two-year budget cycle. The City's Fiscal Years 2011-2012 and 2012-2013 Adopted Operating and Capital Budget projects that its top three revenue sources – Property Taxes (\$3.8 million and \$3.97 million, respectively), Transient Occupancy Tax (TOT) (\$1.6 million and \$1.7 million, respectively), and Sales Tax (\$1.0 million for both years) along with related in-lieu taxes (\$800,000 for both years) -- will make up 69 and 70 percent of its total General Fund revenues of \$10.5 million and \$10.9 million, respectively. These revenues represent increases of one percent and four percent over Fiscal Year 2010-2011 projected revenues, respectively.

The City receives only 15 percent of the property tax dollars paid by residents and businesses with the balance going to the State for school funding, the County and special districts. The City receives only one percent of the 7.75 percent sales tax collected with the rest going to the State General Fund, local transportation, and public safety funding. In contrast, all of the revenue generated by the City's 11.5 percent TOT can be used to fund City programs.

Other Revenue Sources

In addition to our top three revenues, our other major revenues are parking violations (\$567,000 and \$583,000,

respectively), parking meter revenue (\$537,000 and \$560,000, respectively), franchise taxes (\$338,000 and \$342,000, respectively) and business license taxes (\$192,000 and \$196,000, respectively). All parking violation revenues remain with the City except for a \$12.50 charge per ticket which must be remitted to the State. Parking meter revenue, franchise tax, and business license tax are all used towards the City's General Fund.

Revenue Feeds Services

The City's revenues provide funding to supply needed services to its residents, such as Sheriff services, fire protection, beach operations and maintenance, City planning and development, and streets and roads maintenance. In addition, the City's revenues support a modest capital improvement program. For the next two years, however, the City is undertaking the largest CIP program in its history. It is managing the Federally and State-funded North Torrey Pines Bridge project, and it will shortly begin construction on the long-awaited Beach Safety Center, thanks to generous donations of the Friends of the Powerhouse, a grant from the Coastal Conservancy, proceeds of the sale of the Balboa Lot, and some additional General Fund monies. In addition, the City is well on its way to making operational the 21st Street Sewer Pump Station, funded by sewer rates and charges. The City is also focusing its efforts towards downtown revitalization through its work on the Village Specific Plan. ■

Editor's note: Read about Teresa McBroome's Certificate of Achievement on page 13.

BIG PLANS BIG PRICE

Bud Emerson | Klish Way

Citizen awareness and involvement is urgently needed to consider the impact on the quality of our lives from a giant development near our borders. A citizen-sponsored website describes what is planned and suggests how we can get involved. Check out Whatpricemainstreet.com to see for yourself.

Quotes from the website:

"Kilroy Realty Corporation has proposed the largest density increase ever considered in Carmel Valley's +30-year history. Located on the southwest corner of Del Mar Heights Road and El Camino Real, the Main Street project includes more than two million square feet of buildings on a 23-acre site currently planned for 500,000 square feet of suburban office space. That's four times the size of the property's current entitlements, 10 times the density of the Del Mar Highlands Town Center, and larger than the University Town Center!

Serious Impacts:

- The project will create significant traffic and infrastructure impacts to the community.
- Carmel Valley's roads are unable to handle already approved entitlements, therefore no increase in traffic beyond what is planned for should be allowed.
- The size and scale of the project is inconsistent with Carmel Valley's existing community character.
- Potential overflow parking from the project will congest neighboring residential streets and commercial parking areas.

The truth is that this new development will overwhelm the Carmel Valley community and its surrounding neighborhoods with increased traffic congestion, infrastructure impacts and degrade our community's character." □



from Kilroy's leasing brochure

DEL MAR FOUNDATION

Matching Grant for the Beach Safety Center

Power up your contribution with the Del Mar Foundation's matching grant.

more details www.delmarfoundation.org

NOT THAT DAUGHTER!

Bill Michalsky | Stratford Court

DAR... NOT Daughters of the American Revolution, but Direct Access Ramp. Add this to your list of little used acronyms. You are forgiven if you don't know what this is; think CALTRANS, the freeway guys and SANDAG, the regional planning agency, and then add in the recent CALTRANS Draft Environmental Impact Report (DEIR) for building out I-5 over the next 40 years. Mix in ongoing traffic growth, add a dash of Flower Hill Promenade build-out and some spice in the proposed intensification of use at the Fairgrounds and you get an I-5/Via de la Valle interchange that already scores a Level of Service "F" at many times, something that we have all experienced in recent local summer trips to neighboring communities. The DEIR identified Flower Hill and the Fairgrounds as potential traffic elements to consider but did not include actual traffic counts or impacts that their intensified uses might bring. The DEIR identified the possibility of adding a DAR to the Fairgrounds and suggested that the Fairgrounds should cover the costs of construction. The DAR, as then considered, would be dedicated to feed into a proposed 5 or 6 story parking garage that would serve the Fairgrounds, on the east lot, in the flood plain west of I-5.



Washington State Department of Transportation
www.wsdot.wa.gov/hov/directaccessramps.htm

So what is this DAR? The ramps are built, ideally, as special purpose devices to move traffic to specific locations. In most cases they are designed to move vehicles from HOV/express lanes, in the center of the freeway, to parking or transit locations; locally DARs have been built on the I-15 build-out. In his response to the Fairgrounds DEIR, local Bill Lewis and associates, identified a differently configured DAR to serve the Fairgrounds; this design would have the ramps placed to the outside of the freeway as most of us are used to utilizing. In either case the DAR would consist of bridges or flyovers to cross the freeway adding more of a footprint to the I-5 build-out. Members of the City Council have recently suggested that CALTRANS/SANDAG should again study this approach as a remedy to handling traffic at this location. It is likely that the Via de la Valle interchange will have to be rebuilt to accommodate

continued on page 13

RESIDENT BRIDGE BATS

Anthony Corso | Stratford Court

Most of us are aware that the North Torrey Pines Bridge, considered one of Del Mar's Historic landmarks, is undergoing a sizeable rehabilitation including replacing the entire upper deck. In addition, its columns are being seismically strengthened and repairs being made upon extensive areas of deteriorated concrete. Construction is being implemented so as to maintain the bridge's historic character.

Those of us who travel along this route have discovered that the road remains open to vehicular and bicycle traffic despite the enormity of construction. However, driving through requires an alert lookout out for construction signs and often a careful weaving between barricades and other blockages. There have been only a few full-closures -- most of them late at night.

A July "Work in Progress" report indicates that 20% of the work has been completed on the \$13 million dollar project and that the completion date remains at August 30th, 2013.

Two more years to go!

Mayor Don Mosier recently pleaded, "Slow down, enjoy our beautiful environment and watch out for each other." In summary, he advises that we remain calm, drive carefully



North Torrey Pines Bridge. Courtesy City of Del Mar.

through the narrowed traffic lanes and be willing to share the lanes with other vehicles and bicycles.

Of interest, Margaret Boruyasz, project manager for the firm handling mitigation in the project recently engaged in relocating "resident bridge bats." It seems there are at least four species of bats making the bridge their home. "Bat condos" have been built in close proximity to the bridge, each holding approximately 200 bats. The bats leave each evening to forage for hundred of insects before returning to their home near daybreak. (March 2011, Torreyana) ■



Cliff Swallows on the Grand Avenue Bridge, July 26, 2011. It is unusual to see these birds perching. Photo Paul Haydu.

NOT THAT DAUGHTER!

continued from page 12

more lanes of traffic under and over this existing viaduct in any case. The challenge is to understand the impacts of the potential design elements. The I-5 corridor is likely to grow in width by 39 feet on both sides without a DAR. So what would the DAR add? It is difficult to imagine at this time, but one should recognize that it will include bridges with feeder ramps all linked to a future parking structure, etc. This will not be friendly to the newly restored lagoon and wetlands; it will likely generate more noise and traffic and not be aesthetically pleasing. None of the options are appealing and more needs to be done to utilize transportation alternatives or we will all suffer from a new form of physical and visual gridlock. Careful presentation of the alternatives, with accurate visual depictions of all elements and cost estimates, needs to be presented to the community in the near term. ■

EXCELLENCE IN DEL MAR

(Chicago)--The Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting has been awarded to City of Del Mar by the Government Finance Officers Association of the United States and Canada (GFOA) for its comprehensive annual financial report (CAFR). The Certificate of Achievement is the highest form of recognition in the area of governmental accounting and financial reporting, and its attainment represents a significant accomplishment by a government and its management

An Award of Financial Reporting Achievement has been awarded to the individual(s), department or agency designated by the government as primarily responsible for preparing the award-winning CAFR. This has been presented to:

Teresa S. McBroom
Director of Finance/Treasurer

The CAFR has been judged by an impartial panel to meet the high standards of the program including demonstrating a constructive "spirit of full disclosure" to clearly communicate its financial story and motivate potential users and user groups to read the CAFR.

The GFOA is a nonprofit professional association serving approximately 17,500 government finance professionals with offices in Chicago, IL, and Washington, D.C.



Reprint courtesy Jan McMillan

BEGINNING TWILIGHTS

Mary Hale, for the Del Mar Spectator in 1983

Imagine rolling lawns, a sea breeze, and a panoramic view of the Pacific Ocean. Families and groups gather with blankets and picnic hampers while musicians tune their instruments. An evening concert begins in the special setting of Seagrove Park as the sun begins its descent.

A summer concert series in Seagrove is planned for Monday evenings, alternating with City Council sessions. The free public concerts, especially designed to please a broad range of ages and interests, will include folk singer Sam Hinton on July, 11 and an "American Evening" with the Chicago Six on July 25.

In August, there will be selections from Gilbert & Sullivan by the Marine Band. September brings the Sprague Brothers and the Cheathams, all well-known jazz musicians. Concluding the series will be Stones Throw on September 26, nostalgia music of the 40s and 50s.

Volunteers in association with the Del Mar Foundation have worked hard to create this free public program. Mike Ernst, chairman of the concert committee, has received wonderful support from Bert Turetsky internationally renowned musician, who has helped to select the program, Swede Thronson of the Chamber of Commerce, Al Dillon of cable TV, Mary Hale of Del Mar Days, Stan Silbert of the Parks and Rec Committee and especially Councilman Lou Terrell, who has encouraged the group to achieve this ambitious schedule.

In addition, John Dempsey, nationally published artist, has created a signed, limited edition print celebrating this first concert series. The edition will be limited to a maximum of 150 prints. John has developed the original plate, bone "A" tier, under the direction of Jean Braley of the La Jolla Atelier. Master printmaker Bill Kelly of Brighton Press will pull the edition under Dempsey's guidance.

The concert committee is very pleased to offer this quality print, celebrating Del Mar's Seagrove Twilight Concerts, as part of their fundraising effort. The prints will be available while copies remain to those who contribute \$100 or more to the tax-exempt Del Mar Foundation.

The concert series will provide an opportunity for families and friends of Del Mar, of all ages, to come together informally to enjoy good music in the exceptional scenic at-mosphere of our own Seagrove Park. ■

LAST OF THE TWILIGHTS

Bill Michalsky | Stratford Court

The 2011 Summer Twilight Concert Series, sponsored by the Del Mar Foundation, will soon come to an end. The first three concerts have been well received by the community and attendance has filled Powerhouse Park. At the August concert Mrs. Robinson put on a great show. One more concert remains.



DMF Twilight Concert August 16, 2011.
Photo Jill Weitzen MacDonald.

In September, the final concert will be on Sunday, the 18th, featuring Sensation Showband, with more great dance music. They take the stage at 5:00 p.m. We ask that you give your support to the local businesses that help to underwrite the concerts; the Del Mar Thoroughbred Club, Jake's Del Mar, Rusty Del Mar Surf Shop, Poseidon on the Beach, L'Auberge Del Mar & Spa and the many in-kind donors in our community. As we know, in Del Mar there is nothing to complain about when it comes to the weather, but it would be great to enjoy a green flash at the last concert.

So get ready for September. Gather your friends and neighbors and join us at Powerhouse Park for some great music. As all locals know, you will want arrive early to get your favorite space on the grass. And as always please bring a few dollars to help defray the concert costs; there will be an opportunity drawing and concert t-shirts will be available. And please support our fine local establishments that support the concerts.

Hope to see you there. ■

Further information may be found at the Del Mar Foundation website: www.delmarfoundation.org

DEL MAR COMMUNITY CALENDAR

Highlights for September 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.

Del Mar Library: Investment Education—Richard Loth, "Understand the mutual fund universe," Thursday, September 1st, 6:00 p.m. and Thurs., September 15th, 1:00 p.m.

DMF: First Thursdays Concert, High Society Jazz Band, Thursday, September 1st, Del Mar Powerhouse Community Center, 7:00 p.m. This series is sold out.

DMVA History Committee Meeting: Tuesday, September 6th, 5:00 p.m., monthly meeting at En Fuego Cantina and Grill.

DMF Cultural Arts Committee Meeting: Wednesday, September 7th, Del Mar Powerhouse Community Center, 8:30 a.m.

Del Mar Library: Meet the author, Hank Wesch, Del Mar: Where the Turf Meets the Surf," Thursday, September 8th, 6:30 p.m.

Del Mar Library: Wii for you and Me—Saturday, September 10th, 2:00 p.m. Spend the afternoon playing your favorite Wii games at the library. Snacks provided.

Del Mar City Council Meetings: Monday, September 12th and Monday September 26th, 6:00 p.m. Del Mar Communications Center, 240 10th St.

Del Mar Planning Commission meeting: Tuesday, September 13th, 6:00 p.m., 240 10th St.

DMF Board Meeting: Thursday, September 15th, 8:00 a.m., City Hall Annex

Book Sale: Sept. 18th, Sunday from 8:30 to 12:00 pm at St. Peter's Church a book sale with bargain prices on history, biography, adult fiction, travel, cookbooks and many children's books. Children's books are marked at very low prices to help benefit young families in our church community. All proceeds go directly to help with the kids attending the Joy to the World Kindergarten in Namibia, Africa.

DMF- Summer Twilight Concert: Sunday, September 18th—Sensation Showband-- music begins at 7:00 p.m., Powerhouse Park. Bring a picnic, beach chairs and blanket and come early to enjoy neighbors, sunset and live music!

DMF Hospitality Committee Meeting: Wednesday, September 21st, Del Mar Library Community Rm., 10:00 a.m.

DMF hospitality Committee: "Meet and Greet and Eat" at Zel's Restaurant, Monday, September 26th at 6:00 p.m. Please R.S.V.P to hospitality@delmarfoundation.org by Monday, Sept. 19th. Bring old friends and meet new at this "no host" dinner event.

DMF Children's Committee Meeting and Social: Wednesday, September 28th, 9:30 a.m., Del Mar Library. Children welcome.

Del Mar Library: Wednesday, September 28th, PJ Story time at 6:30 p.m. Wear your PJ's to the library for story time!

Del Mar Library: Sunday, September 25th 1:00 p.m. -Guided Imagery lecture presented by Dr. Hillel Mazansky. Learn how to heal your mind, body & spirit & live a longer, healthier & happier life.

Del Mar Library: Please visit www.friendsofdelmarlibrary.org for a complete list of upcoming Del Mar Library events!

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



DMF Twilight Concert: Mrs. Robinson - August 16, 2011. Photos Jill Weitzen MacDonald

COVERING ITS BASES

Ann Gardner | Via Latina

Protea Properties, the developer renovating the Flower Hill shopping mall on Via de la Valle, has now filed a Coastal Development Permit, stepping away from the 'whose jurisdiction is it' dispute and leaving the City of San Diego and the California Coastal Commission (CCC) to slug it out.

At issue is whether the Coastal Commission or the City of San Diego, which approved the development in April, has jurisdiction over the property. The renovation adds 75,000 square feet to the current 112,000 sq. ft shopping area and was approved by San Diego despite warnings as early as 2006 from the Commission's San Diego District Office that the property was in the Commission's jurisdiction and a Coastal Development Permit was required. A big chunk of the added footage is for a new 35,000 sq. foot Whole Foods Market.

In the meantime, the Flower Hill movie theatre is gone

and the hillside behind is being sculpted for a four-story parking structure and the Market, despite a warning that continued work could result in a \$15,000 a day penalty for proceeding without the Permit. Protea Holdings plans to continue construction in order to meet their time commitment with Whole Foods. In the meantime City and San Diego Commission staffs continue to meet in an effort to resolve the issue. If there is no resolution at the local staff level, the dispute could go the full Commission, an independent, quasi-judicial state agency appointed by the Governor, the Senate Rues Committee and Speaker of the Assembly, for a decision. The next Commission meeting is scheduled for September 7-9 in Crescent City.

In other action, San Diego Superior Court has dismissed a lawsuit filed by Citizens for the Excessive Expansion of Flower who claimed that the Environmental Impact Report for the expansion was inadequate given the mall's location next to the coastal wetlands. ■



*Flower Hill Changes: stop work order posted - theater closed - hillside devastated - old growth trees killed
www.stopflowerhill.com*

AS TIME GOES BY.....

An Evening in Casablanca, a benefit gala for Del Mar Community Connections, will be held Saturday, October 15, in St. Peter's Parish Hall, with all the elements of "Rick's Café Américain" from the iconic 1942 movie in evidence.

The 6 to 10 p.m. event will begin with cocktails, followed by a Moroccan-inspired dinner by Sbicca, a live auction, and dancing to the 40's-era music of Randy Fontaine & the Swingers. Cocktail or 40's attire is suggested.

Tickets are \$125 per person and, notes Julie Iantorno, chair, space is limited. "It's not too late to become a member of the

Honorary Committee, at \$1,000, which includes two tickets," she adds.

Rosanne Holliday and Linda Katz, Honorary Committee chairs, have recruited more than 36 community leaders to serve on the Honorary Committee, each contributing \$1,000 or greater.

Funds raised from this year's gala will benefit DMCC's "In-Home Connections," a unique program designed to help seniors remain safe and healthy in their homes. Individual client needs are met by providing friendly visits, transportation to medical appointments, prescription pick-up, grocery shopping, social events and more. ■

For further information contact Julie Iantorno at 858 245-7178.



Del Mar Community Connections

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

SEPTEMBER 2011

Annual Flu Shot Clinic

Wednesday, October 26
11:30 to 4 pm
City Hall Annex

Watch our website for more details: www.dmcc.cc

SAVE THE DATE!



Cocktails
Moroccan Inspired Dinner by Sbicca
Live Auction
Dancing to Randy Fontaine & the Swingers

A benefit gala for Del Mar Community Connections

Saturday, October 15, 2011

6 to 10 pm
St. Peter's Parish Hall
40's or cocktail attire

\$125 per person
Seats are limited so purchase your tickets now!
Online at www.dmcc.cc; 858-792-7565 or dmcc@dmcc.cc



Following In-Home Connections

"What fun it is to take Edie [Parti] to her choral group practice. We always have such enjoyable chats on the way. I think it is commendable that she is able to share her love of music with others. I am pleased that I can help her accomplish this sharing of her talent and time."

– Alice Winn, DMCC In-Home Connections Volunteer

You and your vehicle can give the gift of independence and mobility to a Del Mar senior who no longer drives. DMCC is looking for volunteers who have 4 hours a month to give as an In-Home Connections volunteer. Contact **Jeannie Walsh at 858-792-7570 or jeannie@dmcc.cc**.

Only have a couple of hours here and there? Then you might be perfect as a Volunteer Driver to take a senior to a medical appointment. Contact Heather Glenn at 858-792-7565 or heather@dmcc.cc to apply.

DMCC will recycle your used computer printer cartridges!

Your used computer printer cartridges to DMCC transforms into dollars for office supplies and helps us keep down our operating expenses. Bring your empty cartridges to our office today! 240 Tenth Street (in the Del Mar TV Studio)

VISIT THE SANDPIPER ONLINE!

This month's complete issue **plus** web exclusives, colored pix, photo essays, useful links, alerts, and much more!



www.delmarsandpiper.org

SANDPIPER

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ROMEIO

Nancy Fisher | 24th Street

On the last Tuesday of every month the staff of Sbicca has a table waiting for ROMEIO, an acronym for Retired Old Men Eating Out. Just before noon they start arriving -- a half dozen or so Del Mar men, retired from careers in law, insurance, manufacturing, aviation, the priesthood, and more -- coming together for camaraderie and a great meal.

The group, promoted by Del Mar Community Connections and led by Nate McCay, welcomes older Del Mar residents who want to socialize with other men in their age group, but with no pressure. "One of the big draws," says Nate, "is that they don't have to commit. They can come once or they can come regularly."

Clay Johnson, who attended his first lunch in July, was talked into going by his wife, Shirley, who heard about the group through DMCC. "She's kind of a joiner," he explained, "but I'm glad I went and I'll be going again."

Tom Murch, who lost his wife in 2006, was told by friends and his doctor, "you've got to get out more." The ROMEIO group, recommended by fellow church members, turned out to be a good resource and has helped him to begin socializing again.

Although some in the group weren't aware of it, similar men's lunch clubs are springing up all over the country, perhaps inspired by Tom Brokaw's *The Greatest Generation*, which featured one of the first known ROMEIO clubs. Founded by John "Lefty" Caulfield, and attended by childhood buddies who all went on to serve in World War II, the first ROMEIO lunches were held in various diners near Harvard Square in Cambridge, Massachusetts. Today, according to the website of romeoclub.org, there are hundreds of ROMEIO groups across the U.S., some catering to men with shared backgrounds (Really Old Motorcyclists Eating Out) and others, like Del Mar's group, to anyone looking for good food and conversation.

In a January AARP article Dr. William S. Pollack, a professor



Photo Nancy Fisher

of psychology at Harvard Medical School, was quoted as saying "What's so nice about these groups of men is that it helps them discover what women know from the time they enter kindergarten, that a sense of connectedness feels good and is good for your emotional health." □

For more information, contact **Heather Glenn at 858-792-7565** or email her at dmcc@dmcc.cc.

Shores Cinema Series to return **Sept 10 and 24** for two free, family, outdoor Saturday movie nights at Del Mar Shores Park.

This year, the Cinema Series kicks off September 10th at sunset (around 7:30 p.m.) with a trio of award winning films that put a new twist on the traditional surf flick, from *Dear and Yonder* (Woodshed) to *The Physics of Surfing* by San Diego's Passmore Labs, to *The Board Meeting*, with a special guest appearance by San Clemente filmmaker Maggie Franks. *details:* www.delmarsandpiper.org/pdf/DMSCinema2011.pdf