

# SANDPIPER

## Sanitation: A Price to Pay for Health

By Bettina Experton

On January 22, numerous Del Mar citizens testified before the City Council on an issue of vital importance to our community. The scheduled public hearing on the previously approved 5-year plan to increase water and sewer fees resulted in a fierce discussion over fiscal and political issues. But is there more at stake in the City's sanitation debate, such as the public-health impact of our policies?

Long gone are the days when American parents feared the deadly polio virus striking children in hundreds of thousands. Even further remote seem waterborne diseases, number-one cause of death in the developing world. But is it so?



Inside the 21st St. pump station.

Close to 200 severe *E. coli* infections with several deaths last fall remind us that one single water-contaminated spinach field in California can strike and kill at random across America. Today, the risk is even more deadly with the ever-increasing number of antibiotic-resistant infectious agents. Sanitation, with the proper maintenance of clean water and sewer systems, remains at the basis of

the health of modern communities. In Del Mar, we are only a sewer ocean spill away from contaminating miles of beaches and possibly infecting residents and beach-going tourists. For our health, if not the City's financial survival, we cannot cut corners on protecting our unique beach assets, but must continue to maintain, to the highest possible standards, our water and sewer systems. In San Diego, aging systems and deferred maintenance, fined by the EPA, result in recurrent sewer spills with beach closures and water-main breakdowns which can take days to fix. For years, dedicated Del Mar City officials and citizens have refused to go down that unsound and unhealthy road, while continuing to explore more cost-effective alternatives.

While our democratic process gives us all the right to scrutinize and question our high water and sewer rates, let's be informed and act efficiently. All facts and figures needed to clarify, in every detail, all the complexity of the high price we pay for sanitation can be found on the City's web site: [www.delmar.ca.us](http://www.delmar.ca.us). There, all answers to our legitimate questions can be found: from buying 100% of our water supply, to the high cost of pumping and transporting our sewage over the hills, to investing in and properly maintaining a sound infrastructure, while having the lowest administrative cost per water or sewer unit.

There is not yet a Salk vaccine to protect us from bird flu or deadly *E. coli* infections. In 2007, the health of our community remains in our own hands, and with it, good political will. Educated, involved and committed to a city we all cherish, let's join forces to protect ourselves from natural disasters and waterborne infectious diseases, in unity.

*Bettina Experton M.D., M.P.H. is chair of the Finance Committee.*

## Important Meeting

The Planning Commission and the Traffic & Parking Advisory Committee will host a public workshop to discuss possible amendments to the Del Mar Municipal Code regarding off-street parking requirements in the business district. Location: DMTV Station, 240 10th St. Date/Time: Tuesday, February 6th at 6:00pm.

## A Joint Effort

At last, the role of *Sandpiper* editor has been filled—and we are proud to announce who will be responsible for producing your *Sandpiper* each month: Ten Del Mar residents who have come forward to form an Editorial Board that will function as “The Editor”.

Starting next month, we shall divide the content of the paper into a number of sections, each of which will be the responsibility of a team of writers and researchers led by one of the Board members. Other Board members will have responsibility for copy-editing, layout, etc. A team can contain any number of team members who will share the fun of reporting and writing articles. We look forward to the many possibilities that this revitalized

style of reporting will bring.

The Board intends to continue to provide you with quality news while fostering a social and political climate favorable to the preservation of Del Mar’s community character. Though not politically partisan, we make no apology for promoting environmentally reasonable choices that will maintain our traditionally high quality of life.

We think we have come up with a plan that will (a) provide our community with credible and impartial news coverage, (b) keep the spirit of the Community Plan alive, and (c) enable our volunteer staff to share the responsibilities of producing a first-rate publication each month.

While we shall include some of the best ideas and directions of previous *Sandpiper* editors, we are hoping to create a new method of working together to publish a newspaper that will appeal to, and inform, all members of our community.

## Gas Station Site – Make Your Voice Heard

By Brooke Eisenberg-Pike

The Gas Station Site Steering Committee has been conducting public meetings since October, 2006. As of this writing there will have been eight meetings, and I will have attended all but one. The meetings have been very poorly attended by the public. It is my hope that many more members of the public, especially residents living near the property, will attend future meetings. Why miss the opportunity to have your ideas and concerns heard now rather than later?

It is difficult to critique the plan because facts and figures keep changing at each meeting. There does not even seem to be agreement on the project’s FAR. The developers’ own financial report places the FAR at 79%

(underlying zoning is 45%) and yet at the last meeting they declared the figure was incorrect. Also at the last meeting, the developers announced that it will not be feasible to have a full-service restaurant on the site even though this has been a serious consideration since day one. Some have suggested that a restaurant might be the only viable retail for this area. These changes coming fast and furious make it hard to comment on the project itself so I will comment on the process. Without knowing how much additional FAR is being requested, it is difficult to determine the magnitude of the bonus they would receive. This makes it impossible to judge what an appropriate “exceptional public benefit” would be. Additionally, the committee has been trying to determine the proportionality of the public benefits given to the community by past Measure B projects. The stumbling block here is that the committee has not yet received the official data about those two projects, information required in order to make this evaluation.

There are some significant issues that have emerged which give rise to these questions.

- From the point of view of the city and the neighborhood does the project offer a desirable mix of uses?
- Is the proposed parking adequate or will users of the project be forced to park on residential streets?
- Will there be an increase in traffic on residential streets and if so, can this be mitigated?
- What kind of retail is desirable?
- Is any retail component viable at this end of town?
- If retail fails, will the City suffer financially?
- What is an appropriate exceptional public benefit?

Please add your voice to the process.

*Brooke Eisenberg-Pike is a resident of Del Mar.*



**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.

**Editors:** Bud Emerson, Liz Dernetz, Wayne Dernetz, Carol Kerridge, Shirley King, Susan Miller, Art Olson, Betty Wheeler, Mark Whitehead

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# What Do We Want at Gas Station Site?

By Art Olson

For only the third time in Del Mar's history, voters will have the final say on a development project in the city's downtown commercial area. Because of the size and potential impact of any development that will take place on the former gas-station site at 10th Street, the measures enacted under Proposition B are in effect. Both the Del Mar Plaza and the L'Auberge Hotel were ultimately approved under this measure.

While some may lament the passing of the last remaining gas station in town, many see this vacancy as an opportunity to enliven the southern end of Camino Del Mar. The purpose of Prop B, which passed in 1986 in anticipation of the Plaza development, is to assure that large commercial developments do not adversely impact the city or its residents. It requires that a Specific Plan for the project be developed by the City in consultation with the developers, and that the plan be approved by public vote. Such a plan, if approved, may exceed the pre-existing zoning requirements, but only if such exceptions are balanced by exceptional public benefits to be provided by the plan. Herein lies both opportunity and challenge.

What do we want on this site? What don't we want? Is this an opportunity to establish a commercial anchor on south CDM? Is community-serving retail viable on the site? What tradeoffs are there between development and neighborhood impact? What kind of exceptional public benefit would we need to offset zoning exceptions or other impacts? This is the time for Del Mar citizens to have input.

A project is being planned by the owners of the 10th Street property, Schaar Buildings and Homes. It is proposed to contain 38 office condominiums, 4 retail condominiums and a café space. Underground parking for 91 cars is also planned. The plans call for "green" building specifications, including energy-efficient ventilation and planted garden roofs. The floor area ratio (FAR) of the proposed development is over 70%, while that of the underlying Central Commercial Zone is 45%. A market and financial-feasibility study was commissioned by the developers which indicates that such development densities are necessary for the economic viability of the project. The issue of condominium ownership also plays



*Computer Illustration provided by Will Longyear, Project Architect*

heavily into the development's feasibility according to this study.

The City Council has appointed an ad hoc committee to provide community perspective and input to the developers and the City, in its preparation of the Specific Plan. Public meetings of the committee have been taking place on a regular basis since late October 2006, and the developers have put forward their vision for the property, as well as preliminary plans and economic analyses. An open house on the property on January 27, 2007 hosted by the developers is intended to introduce the project to the public, and to get reactions, comments and suggestions.

Questions from the committee have already been raised regarding the appropriateness of the proposed use in light of community goals, the high development density, the nature and extent of any exceptional public benefit, and the long-term community impacts of condominium ownership of a large commercial property.

Over the next few months, open committee meetings will continue as details of the specific plan are further developed. Public hearings will also be held by the committee to educate Del Mar citizens and get additional comments, concerns, and suggestions, as the specific plan develops. These meetings provide an opportunity for all to share thoughts and ideas about what will have the most positive impact on our City, before the project comes to a public vote.

*Art Olson is a member of the Gas Station Site Steering Committee.*

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# Should Sewage Flow North, or South?

By Henry Abarbanel

For a very long time Del Mar has used the regional Metropolitan Wastewater system for its sewer disposal. Our City is one of fifteen entities that partner with the City of San Diego in a regional enterprise for wastewater treatment and disposal. Each City, including San Diego, has its own municipal (or "muni") system totally within its jurisdiction utilizing pipes and pumps for its own

residents and businesses. Del Mar's "muni" system is composed of the pipes in the middle of our streets all of which go to the 21st Street lift station near the tennis courts. This lift station, also called a pump station, is approaching middle age in human years, and the City is developing plans to replace it.

Our partner, the City of San Diego system, runs huge pumps and pipelines taking wastewater to two treatment plants on Point Loma and in the South Bay from whence the treated sewage goes out to sea. Unfortunately San Diego decided, on its own, to resist Federal standards

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# No Bedtime for BOZO

By Mark Whitehead

**BOZO** is the Beach Overlay Zone Ordinance. It was approved by Del Mar voters in 1988, and it established the line between private property bordering the beach and public property - the beach. The city has, since 1988, encouraged beachfront homeowners to build engineered seawalls along that private/public property line. Private encroachments on the public beach are not allowed.

At the January 7 Council meeting, Councilmembers Druker and Abarbanel reviewed the city's success in facilitating the construction of sea walls along most of the beachfront. They noted that some properties at the north and south ends of the beach still lacked protective seawalls and had encroachments on the beach in the form of rip rap, i.e., large boulders. Removal of the boulders and construction of seawalls in these locations should be considered now, Druker and Abarbanel opined. Construction of seawalls may be less expensive if joined to the wall the city will build at the lifeguard headquarters near 17th street. At the north, the lagoon restoration involves heavy equipment and dredging - work that may permit some efficiencies if coordinated with seawall construction and rip rap removal near the rivermouth.

Councilmembers emphasized their commitment to informing the public, and especially beachfront owners, that seawall construction enhances safety, protects their property, and is supported by the city. At the same time, they commented, rip-rap removal "recovers beach for the public".

Beachfront resident, Charles Gaylord expressed concern about sand losses from the north beach in recent years and questioned whether rip rap might be better than seawalls for retaining sand and protecting homes. Julie Hamilton, an attorney for another beachfront owner, suggested waiting until after the lagoon restoration to evaluate sand levels relative to protective devices. She



urged a "reasonable response" to BOZO implementation. The City Council asked staff to report on the beachfront areas of compliance and non-compliance, and the staff time that would be required to "work with affected property owners" to finish implementation of BOZO. The issue will be discussed at City Goal Setting.

*Mark Whitehead is a former mayor of Del Mar.*

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# It Takes a Village to Stay a Village

By Shirley King

Jane Jacobs (1916-2006), an American-born Canadian urbanist, knew how to stop traffic. She fought for the integrity of community life against the insidious forces of the automobile culture and its single-minded goal of destination. Her opposition to major expressway developments in New York City and Toronto brought her face to face with urban planners and traffic engineers whose logic and training she defied. Her mission was to preserve the hearts and landmarks of community life before they were lost forever. Del Mar's Crest Road and its relentless trail of traffic seeking a destination would entice Mrs. Jacobs to rescue this beleaguered community street.

Mrs. Jacobs rejected the quasi-scientific notion that traffic is like water: if damned up or diverted from its course in one place, it will find other outlets where it meets less resistance. In the mid 1950's, closing roads to save Washington Square, the major Greenwich Village community park, saw traffic actually vanish from the surrounding streets. In the mid 1980's in the Annex area of Toronto, Mrs. Jacobs again fought "the traffic is like water" argument presented by city engineers. An overrun Toronto neighborhood street was restored to its previously quiet state by a one-way direction switch. Traffic disappeared.

She turned to evidence that had been collected worldwide and analyzed at University College, London, for London Transport and Britain's Department of the Environment. The principal finding was that if you want to reduce runaway traffic, simply shut a few roads. In many of the cases studied, 60% of the traffic vanished. The research experts advised governments to stop worrying about causing vehicular congestion by pedestrianizing community streets.

If Crest Road were home to Jane Jacobs, no doubt she would be challenging the City's proposed solutions to the cut-through traffic. Just as with the streets where she resided in New York and Toronto, she would convince City officials to consider changing the street direction, allowing only emergency vehicles to use the street both ways and watching pedestrian life be restored. She would observe that dammed traffic did not overflow into channels of less resistance; rather it would be successfully confined to its appointed channel. Traffic would reach its destination without having a misdirected journey through neighborhood streets.

It Takes a Village to Stay a Village will be an ongoing series of community commentary. Readers, please submit your 400 words about the ways to preserve our village life. Send to Sandpiper@inbox.com.

*Shirley King is a resident of Del Mar.*

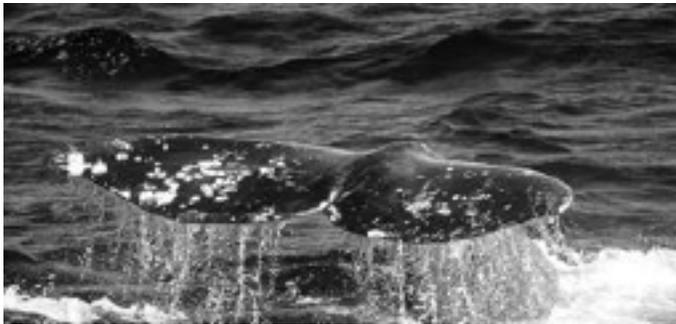
# Thar She Blows!

By Liz Dernetz

Mid-January is one of my favorite times to be in Del Mar. I love to walk along the bluffs in the afternoon and watch for whale spouts. I generally don't use binoculars because they limit my scope of vision too much. I just scan the ocean as I walk.

I watch for a white triangular shape out near the horizon—to me it looks like the sail of a small boat. If I spot it just as it is becoming visible, it will remain clearly visible for several seconds, then it will begin to fade out. Once I've spotted the first spout, I can usually find another in the same general vicinity. I'm always thrilled to watch the progress of these majestic creatures, if only for a brief time, as they make their way south.

The spouts I see are actually condensation—the result of warm, moist air from the whale's exhalation mixed with the cold air at the ocean's surface, and they rise about 15 feet. I often note from 3 to 5 spouts in a row at approximately 40 second intervals, all from one animal; then if I am lucky, I see the tail flukes flash in the air as



the whale flips and makes a deep dive ("sounds"). Because I've been told that whales typically feed off the ocean floor for a period of 3 to 6 minutes, I sometimes count down the minutes to myself while searching for another whale, then I look back to see if my first whale resurfaces with another series of blows as the cycle continues.

The California Gray Whale begins its annual migration in the Bering Sea and heads south along the west coast of the United States, finally terminating 5,000 miles later in the breeding lagoons of central Baja California. It is one of the longest migrations of any species of mammal and takes roughly 55 days. In late March, after birthing, nursing their young and breeding, gray whales begin the return migration to the arctic. However, at that time they are usually further off the coast and are therefore not readily visible from the bluffs.

So this mid-winter period is the best time to spot them, and I cannot help but search for their telltale spouts. If you are walking the bluffs, you may hear me exclaiming to my husband Wayne, "Ooh, there's one!" And "Oh wow, there's another one!" If so, you might want to stop and take a look yourself.

*Liz Dernetz lives on 9th St.*

# A Stage of Abundance in London

By Wayne Dernetz

Seven plays in eight days and a gala New Year's Eve celebration at the fabulous Savoy Hotel in London! That was just part of the ambitious schedule of events during the recent post-Christmas-week London Theater Tour benefiting the La Jolla Playhouse. Forty-two of us comprised the tour group—including several from Del Mar. Priscilla Moxley of La Jolla arranged the tour; this was her seventh such tour. Arthur Wagner, Del Mar's indefatigable professor emeritus at UCSD and the founding chair (1972) of the Theater and Dance Department led the intrepid band of theater-goers in daily discussions and critiques of the stage offerings.

We led off with an hilarious production of *The 39 Steps*, Patrick Barlow's comedy adaptation of Alfred Hitchcock's 1935 film. *Coram Boy* came next, an emotionally charged melodrama of 18th-century England's disregard for orphaned and abandoned children, adapted by Helen Edmundson from Jamila Gavin's 2000 award-winning novel. Then we had *Frost/Nixon* by Peter Morgan, a riveting drama about David Frost's effort to obtain the fallen president's confession during his famous TV interview.

Musical offerings included: *Merry Wives*, the Musical, adapted by Gregory Doran and starring Dame Judith Dench, based on William Shakespeare's classic comedy of spousal mistrust and deception; the big London hit *Billy Elliot*, the Musical (music by Elton John), a light-hearted melodrama of a boy dreaming to become a dancer during the 1984 coal miners' strike in Newcastle, England; and Michael Bourne's hugely successful and award-winning interpretation of Tchaikovsky's classic ballet, *Swan Lake*, featuring an all-male (and powerfully masculine) swan chorus.

Our final offering was *Rock 'N' Roll*, Tom Stoppard's 1988 music-laced drama about a group of dissident rock'n'rollers seeking personal liberty under Prague's fading communist regime of the 1970s and '80s.

Daily group discussions and play critiques led by Arthur Wagner, behind-the-stage tours of the Old Globe and National Theaters in London's South Bank, the Royal Shakespeare Theater in Stratford-upon-Avon, and a visit to Thomas Coram's Foundling Home Museum (and Art Gallery) in London (the oldest such institution in existence) greatly enriched our theater experience.

*Wayne Dernetz is a resident of Del Mar.*

## Valentine's Dinner, Dance and Auction

February 10, at the Powerhouse. Cocktails at 6pm

Tickets are limited: \$100 per person

Contact Carolyn Batzler, 792-5861 or  
Jill Coughlin, 755-1641

# Grassroots Defeat Wealth in Election

By Bud Emerson

Del Mar's November City Council election resulted in a decisive victory for incumbents Crystal Crawford and Jerry Finnell. Of Del Mar's 3086 registered voters, 2208 citizens actually cast ballots, a very healthy 72% turnout.

Final tallies gave Finnell 1199 votes, a winning 54%. Crawford tallied 1158 votes (52%). Laura DeMarco tallied 1010 votes, a 46% losing percentage. In last place again was Michael Winn with 260 votes, chosen by only 12% of the voters. Geographically, the vote pattern was consistent with the winners ahead in absentee votes and every precinct except one, North Beach, where DeMarco had a 7-vote edge.

Finnell and Crawford ran positive campaigns, emphasizing their accomplishments in office and a 96% satisfaction score in last year's citizen survey. DeMarco and Winn chose strategies emphasizing what they asserted were negative aspects of the current council performance. DeMarco underplayed her impressive leadership in raising funds to acquire the Shores school property on 9th Street. Instead, she chose to attack the fiscal integrity of the city, arguing that the City was in financial distress because of the current council's mismanagement. Winn, a long-time critic of the City, continued his fault finding, including personal attacks.

Finnell and Crawford emphasized the City's healthy reserves, balanced budgets, and many awards for excellence in financial management. They countered DeMarco's dire warnings about expensive capital projects with their 20-year capital projections as an example of forward planning, rarely seen in other cities. DeMarco's claim of fiscal expertise was hampered by her service on the County Pension Board where investments in a high-risk hedge fund caused a loss of over \$100 million. Some

believe she was hurt by a heavy-handed push for support from County Supervisor Pam Slater-Price.

Money and grassroots organization were decisive factors. Finnell and Crawford received numerous contributions from supportive citizens who also organized a grassroots door-to-door campaign. DeMarco spent large amounts of her own money for expensive newspaper advertising and mailers, but had few supporters and not much of a campaign organization. Winn had neither money nor organization.

One very unusual factor was the fact that 789 voters cast votes for only one candidate. Participants in the DeMarco campaign reported that Supervisor Slater-Price was advocating that DeMarco supporters cast "bullet" votes for DeMarco only, not using their second vote for any other candidate. DeMarco had decided not to endorse Winn (although he endorsed her), so her supporters' second votes would have gone to Finnell or Crawford, thereby causing her to lose by an even wider margin. Finnell and Crawford endorsed one another late in the campaign.

*Bud Emerson is a resident of Del Mar.*



# Ethics Code Challenged by Dollar Deluge

By Sam Borgese

Every contest between one person and another, between one faction and another should be guided by some principles of ethical behavior. However, the reality is that such contests, especially the contest of electing government officials, tend to devolve into questionable behavior.

Why? The simple answer is that, despite the best of intentions, no one wants to lose a contest. Especially, no one wants to lose if they are being driven by strong convictions or personal agendas.

To help guide candidates towards ethical behavior, many states, cities and municipalities have crafted and legislated rules of ethical behavior, including the City of Del Mar. A committee of Del Mar residents created Del Mar's Code of Fair Campaign Practices with the intent of ensuring civility in Del Mar elections. The very process of enforcing such fair practices can be challenged by any number of campaign activities that cross a gray line and

elude any practical enforcement of fairness. However, in the end, Del Mar's Code has been clearly stated for candidates to follow in the promotion of themselves and their campaign platform, in the participation by residents voicing their open and attributed challenges to the candidates, and in the unbiased reporting by the media covering the election process.

What the committee that crafted and promoted the code did not foresee was the more-recent influence of campaign finances on a candidate's ability to self promote. The candidate's position, whether right or wrong, transmitted to the voters through a deluge of printed materials, advertisements and e-mail could not be challenged by other candidates with lesser financial resources.

With the emerging trend by candidates to win at any cost, it is now necessary for Del Mar to consider revisiting its current campaign-practices code. A renewed guide for the candidates that addresses campaign finances, promotes accuracy of facts and a civil discourse is an imperative charter to elect the best citizens to represent the residents of the Del Mar community.

*Sam Borgese was co-chair of Del Mar's Fair Campaign Practices Committee.*

# February Community Calendar

**1st Thu. 6:30pm:** First Thursday, San Diego Chamber Orchestra Woodwind Quintet: Music of the Americas; Powerhouse

**4th Sun. 1pm:** Children's Music Concert; Powerhouse

**5th Mon. 6pm:** DM City Council; DMTV Station

**6th Tue. 10-noon:** DMCC Knit & Stitch; 704 Kalamath Dr.

**6th Tue. 6:00pm:** Planning Commission/TPAC Joint Meeting; DMTV Station

**7th Wed. 8:30:** Cultural Arts Committee; Powerhouse

**7th Wed. 10-2pm:** DMCC Mah Jongg; Powerhouse

**7th Wed. 11-2pm:** DMCC Bridge; Powerhouse

**7th Wed. 4pm:** Friends of DM Library Board; Library

**8th Thu. 8:30:** DM Foundation Board; City Hall Annex

**8th Thu. 6pm:** Producers' Showcase; DMTV Station

**10th Sat. 9:00:** DMCC Board; City Hall Annex

**10th Sat. 6:00pm:** Friends of the Powerhouse Dinner/Dance/Auction; Powerhouse

**13th Tue. 10:00:** Morning Coffee with Bert Turetzky: "Romance with the Contrabass"; St. Peter's Hall

**13th Tue. 3:30-5pm:** Singing Together Connection (DMCC) 1010 Crest Road

**14th Wed. 10-2pm:** DMCC Mah Jongg; Powerhouse

**14th Wed. 10:30:** Preschool Spanish and English Bilingual Storytime; Library

**14th Wed. 11-2pm:** DMCC Bridge; Powerhouse

**16th Fri. 9-1pm:** AARP Safe Driving Class (see page 11); City Hall Annex

**19th Mon. 6:30pm:** DM Arts Center Board; DM Arts Center

**20th Tue. 10-noon:** DMCC Knit & Stitch; 704 Kalamath Dr.

**20th Tue. 6pm:** DM City Council; DMTV Station

**20th Tue. 7pm:** Historical Society; City Hall Annex

**21st Wed. 9:00:** DMTV Foundation Board; DMTV Studio

**21st Wed. 9:00:** Friends of the Powerhouse Board; Jake's

**21st Wed. 10-2pm:** DMCC Mah Jongg; Powerhouse

**21st Wed. 11-2pm:** DMCC Bridge; Powerhouse

**21st Wed. 5pm:** DM Lagoon Committee; City Hall Annex

**21st Wed. 6:30pm:** DM TV Foundation Producers; DMTV Studio

**22nd Thu. 8:45:** DMVA Board; City Hall Annex

**22nd Thu. 6:30pm:** Rose Society; Powerhouse

**23rd Fri. 11-3pm:** DMCC Senior Legal Services; City Hall Annex

**23rd Fri. 11-3pm:** AARP Safe Driving Class (see page 11); City Hall Annex

**24th Sat. 8:00 (Tentative):** DM City Council Goal Setting; City Hall Annex

**25th Sun. 4-6pm:** Young Artists' Reception; DM Art Center

**28th Wed. 10-2pm:** DMCC Mah Jongg; Powerhouse

**28th Wed. 11-2pm:** DMCC Bridge; Powerhouse

**28th Wed. 6pm:** Design Review Board; DMTV Station

*All times a.m. unless noted.*

Please submit calendar items for the March edition of the Sandpiper to Liz Dernetz (ldernetz@pacbell.net) no later than Friday, February 16.

## Sewage

*Continued from page 3*

requiring upgrading from primary to secondary treatment before disposal at sea. It is likely in the near future that the upgrades will have to be implemented. While we all would approve of this in an abstract way, the overall cost of this ranges from about \$850 million to \$1.7 billion with Del Mar's portion being as much as one or two million dollars to be paid as a bond over several decades.

Council Member Carl Hilliard and I, as Chair of the San Diego Metro Wastewater Commission (Council Member Hilliard is my alternate on the Commission), thought it wise to explore possible alternatives to remaining a part of the San Diego Metro system. We asked for and received approval of our fellow Council members to approach the San Elijo Powers Authority (SEJPA), which disposes of Solana Beach's, Encinitas's and some of Rancho Santa Fe's wastewater, to see if we could join their system and avoid the costs of upgrading the San Diego system. We recently discussed this with SEJPA Board (Council Members and City Managers from Solana Beach and Encinitas) to see if they would work with us to analyze the costs and benefits of pumping north instead of south.

The SEJPA Board was very receptive to working with us to study this issue. Indeed, they said it represented just one of many cooperative efforts among our three cities which we should be pursuing over the coming years. These efforts could provide economies of scale for all three cities as well as better long-term service in a variety of arenas.

The three major civic issues for Del Mar are: 1) How much will it cost to construct a pipeline from 21st Street to the north and what environmental impact will there be from directing our wastewater flow under the San Dieguito Lagoon and through SEJPA ocean outfall? 2) How much will the required expansion cost, since the peak flow from Del Mar exceeds the nominal capacity of the SEJPA system because of the flows from the Del Mar fairgrounds during major events, and who will pay for them? 3) How much will it cost to depart from the San Diego Metro system?

The last of those costs might be reduced if we can sell our capacity to Chula Vista, that needs additional flow capacity amounting to six times our present capacity. If we have to pay to depart from the metro system as well as to join the SEJPA system, it may not pencil out. But we just do not know yet. We will find out all of this over the coming months, not years.

*Henry Abarbanel is a Del Mar City Councilmember.*

## Areas of Progress in Lagoon

By Jacqueline Winterer



The San Dieguito Wetland Restoration project started in earnest in October last year. To make reporting easier, Southern California Edison (SCE) has divided the restoration acreage into four areas.

Work on Area 3, north-east of I-5, can best be viewed while driving east along Via De La Valle. Large mounds of rubble are piled high along the river bank. They are rocks from a freeway construction project that are sorted

on site. They will be used for the construction of a long berm north of the river, stretching from I-5 eastward toward the southwest corner of the Fairgrounds Horse Park property. The purpose of the berm is to direct river flow toward the coast and prevent siltation of the wetland being restored north of the berm.

From Area 2B, south of the river and east of I-5, the ground has been cleared of vegetation and the topsoil removed, to be used later when the project is completed and native upland vegetation is reestablished. Temporary haul roads allow the circulation of heavy equipment.

Area 2A, the site of the old Del Mar Municipal Airport will become a deep sub-tidal lagoon. This area too has been cleared of vegetation and had its topsoil removed. Digging has started and spoil accumulated on a disposal sites east of I-5. The water table is not deep under Area 2A, and water already appears at the bottom of the excavation.

Work on area 1 will only take place toward the end of the project.

SCE has engineered the project so that all of the work and traffic of heavy equipment takes place on site without impacting local road traffic.

The best comprehensive views of the restoration area are from Overlook Park on High Bluff Drive east of I-5. Excellent information on work progress is provided by SCE and Marathon Construction on the website [www.sdlagoon.com](http://www.sdlagoon.com).

*Jacqueline Winterer is President of the Friends of the San Dieguito River Valley.*

## A Brief History of the San Dieguito Lagoon

By Henry Abarbanel

The San Dieguito lagoon was once the largest of the six San Diego coastal lagoons, and has the largest watershed. The marsh area alone is believed to have totaled over 600 acres, while the entire lagoon probably covered 1,000 acres. Over the years, San Dieguito was subjected to major filling activities and lost half of its marshes. The filling activities included Highway 101 and I-5, Jimmy Durante Blvd, residential land development, the Del Mar fairgrounds and a World War II airfield. Two large dams were constructed upstream on the San Dieguito River, greatly reducing freshwater inflows. The result of all of these activities was virtually year-round closure of the lagoon mouth beginning in the 1940's. Only large winter floods or bulldozers open the mouth periodically.

Restoration of the San Dieguito coastal wetlands has been a stated goal of the Cities of Del Mar and San Diego, and the organizers of the San Dieguito River Park for almost two decades. In 1983, utilizing in part a \$1.3 million grant from the California Coastal Conservancy, the California Department of Fish and Game created a

tidal basin in a 70-acre area of the southern lagoon. In addition, the lagoon mouth was reopened, restoring tidal influence, at least temporarily, to the entire coastal wetland. The ultimate goal is to restore what remains of the historically significant San Dieguito Lagoon system.

It certainly was a long time coming, but work is finally underway on restoring the lagoon at the northern side of the City of Del Mar. Restoration work began in fall 2006, a mere 17 years after the idea of the park conceptualized by the formation of a Joint Powers Authority (JPA) including the Cities of Del Mar, Escondido, Poway, Solana Beach and San Diego plus the County of San Diego.



## Streetlights Versus a Dark Sky

By Jan McMillan

The Torrey Pines community and the City of Del Mar have always been close, both geographically and philosophically. Composed of Del Mar Heights, Torrey Pines Terrace and part of the land east of Jimmy Durante Blvd., Torrey Pines encompasses some of the most scenic lands in this region. In an age of relentless development, residents of both Torrey Pines and Del Mar have worked together to protect and restore such natural resources as the San Dieguito River Valley, Los Penasquitos Marsh and Torrey Pines State Reserve. It seems wise, then, for Del Mar and Torrey Pines to keep in touch—at least to keep track of what’s happening to their neighbors “next door.” For starters, here is just one of several current issues that are important to all of us:

Recently, to their complete surprise, residents of the hilly neighborhood overlooking Carmel Valley Road woke up to the sounds of jackhammers, as San Diego city workers prepared to install 19 new lights on various side streets, despite the fact that in 2003, adjacent property owners had been assured there would be no such lights. Resident Kevin Patrick and others took their objections to the Torrey Pines Community Planning Group, who along with Scott Peters, their San Diego City Council liaison, heeded their complaints, wrote to Mayor Jerry Sanders, and had the work stopped, at least temporarily.

People who say no to streetlights, like the 84 out of 90 Terrace residents surveyed as recently as this past December, advocate a “dark sky” in their neighborhood, simply because they believe we should all be able to see the stars at night in a uniquely scenic area that takes its name from nearby Torrey Pines State Reserve. Their position agrees with that of the Torrey Pines Association,

a protective organization which, in addressing the Carmel Valley Road plan, stated: “Carmel Valley Road and the Del Mar Terrace are sandwiched between the two main bodies of Torrey Pines State Reserve...the areas we call the Extension and the Los Penasquitos Lagoon. The TPA advocates maintaining a dark sky community.” Readers interested in this issue may want to attend the next planning group meeting on February 8th, 7 p.m., at the Del Mar Heights School.

More to come on this subject in next month’s *Sandpiper*, plus news about a Del Mar Heights median designed jointly by Diana Bergen, Adam Gevanthor (both of Torrey Pines) and Bill Teague (Del Mar).

*Jan McMillan lives on 12th Street.*

### *Twinkle, Twinkle, little Star*

Twinkle, twinkle, little star,  
How I wonder where you are.  
Since the streetlights were turned on,  
All the twinkling stars are gone.

*-With apologies to Jane Taylor*

### One FLU Over... Your Nest?

Some new tips for avoiding the flu this season:

Keep three feet (an arm’s length) from other people who have flu symptoms;

Wash your hands often with soap and water (long enough to sing Happy Birthday)  
OR use an alcohol-based hand cleanser (at least 60% alcohol);

If you yourself have symptoms, cough or sneeze into your sleeve rather than your hands, and stay home so you don’t pass the bug to others!

*From the San Diego County Health Services*

## The Big Job This Year

By Carl Hilliard



Fulfilling the Community Plan’s goals for our Center District while turning that area between 15th and 9th streets into a viable, sustainable core will be my main focus this year. I think that the proposal, Fred Kent’s *Project for Public Spaces* submitted last year, calling for creating a second retail center – this one at the southern end of town at

the City Hall site – is promising. Based on his successful track record in revitalizing downtown cores, Kent foresees that this new hub would stimulate additional development, which would help fill the gap between 11th and 9th streets. Kent’s proposal suggests that with careful planning, we can achieve the pedestrian-oriented Center District we all desire. The place to start, I believe, is at the City Hall end, building a new City Hall and adding underground parking. I also think we can solve the traffic issue by regulating the flow at the entrances to our city, instead of by adding stop signs. Some of my other ideas for traffic containment include narrowing traffic lanes on Camino del Mar, eliminating street parking, extending the sidewalks further out and adding planted bulb-outs. More to come. As always, feel free to e-mail me at [carl@carlhilliard.com](mailto:carl@carlhilliard.com).

*Carl Hilliard is Mayor of Del Mar.*

# History on the Move

By Brad Allison



*Brad Allison, newly elected  
President of the Historical Society.*

**H**istory takes work. Compiling Del Mar's long history (there were natives here four thousand years ago) is a work in progress. The Del Mar Historical Society has been active since 1985 in collecting and organizing artifacts of our history. We are supported in this effort by the generous contributions of residents, visitors and businesses. These contributions help the Society maintain the Alvarado House, establish an oral history program,

distribute educational information, preserve historic documents and photos and promote the annual History Week Celebration. The Historical Society is a voluntary organization; tax-deductible donations are used solely to pursue our mission of preservation and education. The Del Mar Historical Society is now at a significant



crossroad. Recently, we adopted a Strategic Plan to engage the community more fully in order to meet several goals. The Society's goals include:

1. Moving the Alvarado House from the Fair Grounds to a place of prominence in Del Mar so citizens and visitors can learn about our history by being inside one of the most historic homes from Del Mar's founding;
2. Creating educational workshops for adults and children;
3. Assembling and cataloguing historic photos, documents and artifacts in one location in order to preserve, organize and analyze them;
4. Publishing a walking tour book to celebrate the visual history of our streets and neighborhoods;
5. Celebrating our Native American and early Spanish, Mexican and European heritage;
6. Increasing community participation and awareness through communication and education.

The Del Mar Historical Society invites your membership and your participation in its events. We welcome your thoughtful feedback and direction on the Society's goals; your contribution of historic artifacts; your involvement in the oral-history project; your ideas on the types of programs you would like to see. We look forward to having you with us as we embark on our new strategic mission. For more information, check out our website at: [www.delmarhistoricalsociety.org](http://www.delmarhistoricalsociety.org).

*Brad Allison is a resident of Del Mar.*

# Dazzled with the Deep

By Lynn Gaylord

**L**ocal Del Mar residents, Howard and Michele Hall shared their incredible underwater adventures with "First Thursday" subscribers at the Del Mar Powerhouse in January. Dazzling the audience with beautifully shot footage of sharks, whales, and coral reefs from around the world, the Halls shared their stories of both harrowing and heavenly encounters.

Howard Hall began his photography career in the early 1970's with published photographs over the years in magazines including Life, Natural History, National Geographic, GEO, Terre Sauvage, London Illustrated News, and BBC Wildlife. He has authored several books including Sharks, Dolphins, The Kelp Forest, Successful Underwater Photography, and Secrets of the Ocean Realm. With his wife, Michele, they have produced the IMAX films Into the Deep, Island of the Sharks, Coral Reef Adventure, and the latest, currently playing at the Reuben H. Fleet Theatre: Deep Sea 3D. In the course of their exceptionally productive careers, together they have garnered seven Emmy Awards, produced and/or directed many television films including a National Geographic

Special and the five-hour PBS series Secrets of the Ocean Realm.

"First Thursdays" is a monthly program sponsored by the Cultural Arts Committee of the Del Mar Foundation. For more information about joining the series, log onto [www.DelMarFoundation.org](http://www.DelMarFoundation.org) or call (858) 635-1635.





## Turetzky: Noble and Not Misunderstood

DMCC's "Coffee and Conversation" series features internationally renowned musician Bert Turetzky on Tuesday, February 13. The UCSD Professor Emeritus will present "Romance with the Contrabass--Music and Musings" at 10a.m. at St. Peter's Parish Hall.

The performer, raconteur and long-time Del Mar resident, and his instrument, which he refers to as "the noble but misunderstood contrabass" have been all over the world, and he delights in sharing some of those adventures with audiences. His program also includes an eclectic musical mix of classical and jazz, some with Beat Generation poetry narratives, and the musician's witty musings on a variety of matters.

The community is invited to this special free event. For further information call 792-7565.

### DMCC Special Events

**Friday, February 16 (9 a.m.-1 p.m.) & 23 (11 a.m.-3 p.m.): Safe Driving for Seniors.** DMCC sponsors AARP's 8-hour course for senior drivers; DM City Hall Annex. Fee \$10. Most insurance companies offer a discount for completion of this course. Call 792-7565.

### DMCC Ongoing Events

**Knit & Stitch changes in date & time:** Knit and Stitch now meets 1st and 3rd Tuesday from 1:30 to 3:30pm at 704 Kalamath Drive, Del Mar. Call Regina Horner, 755-1931. Free. Newcomers welcome.

**Dog Walking for Seniors** and others who have trouble exercising their dogs: In partnership with the Winston School, DMCC offers the services of upper-class students to vigorously walk the dogs around the school campus, Tues, Thurs, and Friday from 12:15 to 1 pm. Call 792-7565. Chris Engelbrecht is in charge.

**Bridge and Mah Jongg Games:** Wednesdays at the Powerhouse. Mah Jongg players meet upstairs 10a.m.-2p.m.; Bridge meets downstairs 11a.m.-2p.m. No partner necessary. Call 792-7565.

**Singing Together Connection:** Tuesday, February 13, at 1010 Crest Road, from 3:30 to 5 p.m. All voices are welcome. Parking available on Amphitheatre Drive. Call Regina Horner, 755-1931.

**Senior Fitness Classes** – Three classes offered: One-hour

stretch and tone classes at the Powerhouse; 8, 9 and 10a.m. on Tuesdays and Thursdays; 10a.m. class is with chair. Fee \$15 for 10 weeks. Colleen Soto, instructor.

**Life-Story Writing** – Two classes offered: Thursdays & Fridays, 9:30am-noon for 10 weeks at St. Peter's Episcopal Church library. Fee \$10. The classes explore poetry and prose to capture life experiences. M. Gittelsohn, teacher; classes begin February 22. Call San Dieguito Adult School, 760-753-7073, ext. 3418, or log on to <http://www.sdadulted.com>.

**Warm Water Aerobics Class for Del Mar Seniors:** Mondays, noon to 1p.m., at Noonan Family Swim School, Jimmy Durante Blvd. Fee: \$6/class or \$30 for 6 classes. Register in class if space allows. Call DMCC, 792-7565, or Eleanor Conlon, 792-8167.

**Senior Legal Services:** Friday, February 23, 11a.m.-3p.m. Attorney provides advanced healthcare directive, power of attorney, wills, and more. FREE for seniors 60 and older in the 92014 zip code area. Must call DMCC at 792-7565 for appointment.

**Shuttle Bus Service** – DMCC shuttle bus provides pick-up at Del Mar residents' homes and takes them to: Wednesdays – Henry's alternating with Trader Joe's; Thursdays – Albertsons and Ralphs. Suggested donation for each trip: \$3. Check destinations: [www.dmcc.cc](http://www.dmcc.cc). Call 792-7565 to arrange pick up.

**Rides to medical appointments:** DMCC volunteers, using their own cars, drive City of Del Mar residents to medical appointments. Call 792-7565 a week in advance to reserve a ride. To become a volunteer driver, call Chris Engelbrecht at 792-6612.

**DMCC administers Shared Housing and Rental Assistance Programs** – providing affordable housing in Del Mar! If you are a Del Mar homeowner with an extra room to exchange for rent &/or services, please fill out a Home Provider Application at <http://www.dmcc.cc/shared-homeprovider.shtml> or call DMCC, 792-7565 to learn more about the program.

Home seekers earning \$38,650/yr or less and looking for affordable housing in Del Mar, may apply to be matched with a home provider in exchange for rent and/or services. Call

858-233-9105 for a recorded message listing current Shared Housing opportunities in Del Mar, or complete a Home Seeker Application at <http://www.dmcc.cc/shared-homeseker.shtml>. Home seeker income limits apply; references are required, and background checks conducted.

Applicants for rental assistance may call the DMCC office (858-792-7565) for information on qualifications and to obtain an application.

## Fun and Survival in the River Valley

There's something for everyone in the San Dieguito River Valley. Here is just a sampling:

**Friends of the San Dieguito River Valley** operate a monthly bus tour around the lagoon-restoration site periphery. Dates: February 17; March 17; April 14; May 19; June 16. Times: 9:00 a.m. & 11:00 a.m. Location: Strawberry Stand Wetland Learning Center, off San Andres Drive in Del Mar. Exit I-5 at Via de la Valle and go east; right on San Andres; park on street and enter at gate. Learn about the rich cultural history, biological resources and the wetland restoration project now underway in the San Dieguito Lagoon on a guided bus tour. Tour lasts approximately 1.5 hours. Free; reservations required. Contact the San Dieguito River Park at (858) 674-2275 or [barbara@sdrp.org](mailto:barbara@sdrp.org) for more information and to reserve a space.

**"Wilderness Survival for Kids (And Adults too!!)"** Saturday, February 10th, 9:30-11:30 a.m. Initiated in response to a local child lost in Mount Palomar State Park, this program was begun by now-retired Oceanside Police Captain Stephen Scarano. He and friend Tom Bussey, a retired OPD Sergeant, launched community seminars to spur awareness and to teach people basic survival techniques. Now part of the San Dieguito River Park Trail Patrol, they continue to be active in search and rescue and educational outreach activities. Join us

along with members from the San Diego Mountain Rescue Team, the Southwest Search Dogs, and wilderness survival experts. Location: The Community Room located on the outside second level next to McDonalds at the Westfield North County Fair Mall, 200 East Via Rancho Parkway in Escondido. This event is free but seating is limited: first come-first served.

**"Stargazing in the San Pasqual Valley"** continues with free Public Star Parties on February 10th and March 10th, 5:00-11:00 p.m., weather permitting. Location: San Pasqual Battlefield State Historic Park, 1666 San Pasqual Valley Road, 1.5 miles east of the Wild Animal Park on Highway 78. Park at the San Diego Archaeological Center. Call (760) 737-2698 for recorded information.

Free guided hikes with members of the San Dieguito River Park Trail Patrol:

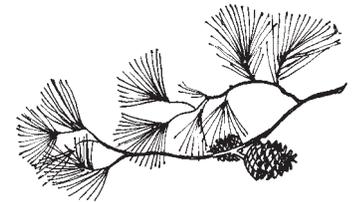
**"You and I and the Kumeyaay"** Saturday, February 3rd, 8:30-10:30 a.m. Hike with Westley Lagerberg and Sam Sugarman and discover a little bit about the flora, fauna, plants, habitats, birds, and lore of



the area. This interpretive trail has something for everyone! Bring water. Location: Bernardo Bay Natural Area for the Piedras Pintadas Trail. Directions: Exit I-15 at Rancho Bernardo Road and go west; right onto West Bernardo Drive; continue past Rancho Bernardo Community Park to Bernardo Bay staging area on left; park in dirt lot.

**"What Happened On The Way To Bernardo"** Saturday, February 24th, 8:30-10:30 a.m. Take a walk through time on the Mule Hill Trail with San Dieguito River Park Docents and Trail Patrollers Ron Hall and Diane St. John.

Learn about the history of the town of Bernardo and what happened to it and get a tour of the Sikes Adobe Historic Farmstead. Location: Mule Hill Trail/Sikes Adobe Historic Farmstead. Directions: Exit Rancho Parkway from I-15, and head east. Turn right at the next light on Sunset Drive. Park at the end of the road. Meet at the kiosk near the farmstead on the Mule Hill Trail, going east.



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