



CARMEL'S DIVERSE ARCHITECTURE MEETING WITHOUT COLLIDING

Kent Seavey has described Carmel as a village where different architectural styles should “meet without colliding.” In his book *Carmel: A History in Architecture*, he informally delineates eras in that history.

It began with the creation of the present Mission San Carlos at the end of the eighteenth century. During the nineteenth century, a few residences—farmhouses, whalers’ homes, etc.—were built. At the end of that century, the idea of Carmel City emerged, envisioned as a Catholic summer resort. Some small cottages, the El Carmelo Hotel and a large bathhouse on Carmel beach were constructed.

In 1902, the Carmel Development Company entered the picture, promoting the vision of houses that were “artistic in character, reflecting the temperament of the town.” During this period a business district emerged with a general store, butcher shop, greengrocer, drugstore, candy shop, Wells Fargo express office, library, two hotels, and several boarding houses. Soon thereafter, Carmel’s “Bohemian” tradition began and with it architectural designs reflecting the arts and crafts movement, many of them built by M.J. Murphy. A public building that typified this era was the All Saints Episcopal Church that is now Carmel’s City Hall.

The present architectural character of the business district emerged in the 1920s. This era saw the construction of such landmarks as the Theatre of the Golden Bough (its courtyard remains), the Seven Arts Building and the Harrison Memorial Library. At the same time, Hugh Comstock introduced his “fairytale” cottages that have come to embody characterizations—and caricatures—of Carmel architecture.

Though the style had previously influenced the design of some buildings, Spanish Revival architecture was increasingly prevalent in the 1920s, illustrated by such structures as the La Giralda and El Paseo Buildings. Other styles also appeared such as the Tudor-style Sunset School.

From the 1930s forward, several buildings were based on designs by such eminent architects as Frank Lloyd Wright, William Wurster, Henry Hill, Robert Jones, and Marcel Sedletzky. Despite their diverse designs, all share a fundamental respect for Carmel’s natural environment. In the words of Carmel’s Design Guidelines, they “contributed to the character of the community by responding to the forest context and using craftsmanship in construction and detail”—a “tradition that should be continued.”



The CRA’s March 26th meeting will feature a presentation by Kent Seavey, a singular authority on Carmel’s architecture, speaking on the topic “The Many Faces of Downtown Carmel.” The program begins at 5:00pm in the Vista Lobos meeting room. A social hour will follow with wine and light refreshments.



Meeting

THURSDAY • MARCH 26TH
GENERAL MEETING

Time: 5:00 pm
Location: Vista Lobos Meeting Room
(3rd Ave. between Junipero & Torres)

DID YOU FORGET TO PAY YOUR 2015 DUES?

If you haven’t renewed your membership by paying this year’s dues you should do so immediately. Dues are \$30 for individuals and \$50 for families. Or, better still, become a Benefactor with the payment of \$100 (Benefactor members support the Carmel Residents Association vital community service projects and our plans for participation in the 2016 Carmel Centennial Celebration.)

An envelope for remitting payment is enclosed with this CRA News for your convenience.



Barbara Livingston

The Humbug of Progress

WE HAVE BEEN GIVEN A LEGACY. IT IS UP TO US TO PRESERVE IT.

During the holidays I had the opportunity to reread Carmel's Historic Context Statement, last amended and adopted in 2008 as well as Harold and Ann Gilliam's book, *Creating Carmel—The Enduring Vision*. It was thrilling to refresh my memory of how Carmel's co-founders and early leaders worked their magic to see that our village did not become just another seaside resort along the California Coast.

They were well aware that originality would be the key to the success of the village. They advocated slow growth and residential values over commerce. They also understood that the culture of theater, art and music was essential to our wellbeing and that the natural environment was important for Carmel's long-term viability.

The Gilliams quote Mayor Perry Newberry writing in the *Pine Cone*, "...Carmel's first thought is not for the humbug of 'progress' but for the beauty, dignity, and reticence that mean

character...Holding back progress has nothing to do with keeping Carmel different." Many who shared his sentiments were wary of commercialism disguised as progress.

Would they think that today's eighteen, and growing, wine tasting rooms with live band music would qualify as "commercialism disguised as progress?" Would they also agree that parking kiosks on Ocean Avenue were also symbols of this rampant trend?

The early leaders were forward-thinking. They worked to keep Carmel different because they knew that individuality was the key to continued success, prosperity and to attracting homeowners and visitors.

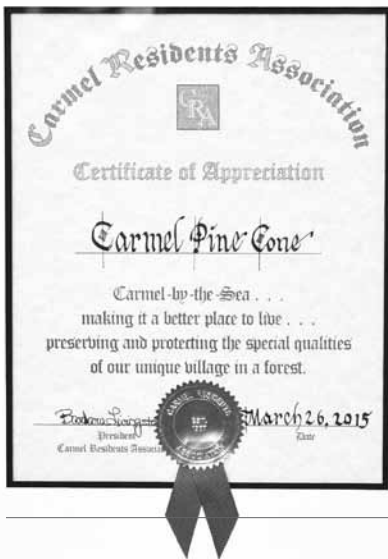
"Different" has been used often over the decades to describe our village. In the late 1990s, City Administrator, Jere Kersnar, presumably influenced by Newberry, coined the phrase "Carmel is different and it got that way on purpose."

Today, Mayor Burnett and Council Members Beach, Talmage, Theiss and Dallas are our difference-makers. They

determine whether we are going to settle for ordinariness or pursue originality. As such, they have an awesome responsibility to uphold the work of past leaders, to put aside personal feelings in favor of what has gone before, and to respect what is written in our General Plan, our management plans, our guidelines and our municipal code. These documents give the Mayor and Council confidence in their decision-making, knowing that there is language and history to support their decisions.

Yet, too often, they deliberate at great length when answers to their quandaries can be found in existing documents—plans, guidelines, and codes. All they have to do is hold fast to the commitment of our early leaders to keep Carmel different – and in doing so, maintain it as a very special place. The stewardship and rigor of those early intentions set us on the course to make our village a wonderful place to live and to do business.

We have been given a legacy.
It is up to us to preserve it.



THE CRA HONORS THE PINE CONE

The CRA has presented a Certificate of Appreciation to *The Carmel Pine Cone* in recognition of its 100 years of service to Carmel residents. During that century it has remained the principal medium for keeping residents informed about matters related to city government, cultural events, and other significant community affairs and issues. It has also offered Carmel's business community an outlet for informing residents about their goods and services. While *The Pine Cone's* editorial views sometimes differ from the views of the CRA, that merely means democracy is alive and well in our village!

City



NEWS & VIEWS

City Administrator Doug Schmitz has instituted a new method of advising city officials and staff members of important events and activities called “The Friday Letter.” The following are excerpted from recent Letters.

CARMEL MISSION

The upcoming canonization of Father Serra will significantly impact Carmel Mission and its neighborhood and the proposed shared-use pedestrian/bike trail from Larsuen Drive around Larson Field and terminating at Rio Road. The City Administrator has been meeting regularly with Richard Pierini, the General Manager of the Mission. Pierini is reporting on the planning activities that the Archdiocese and the Mission are undertaking in planning for the impacts of the canonization not just in September but for long term. They are also discussing the proposed trail. The Mission was given a draft easement and has already responded that it “has no objections to this project proceeding through the environmental review and permit process at this time.”

WEB EOC TRAINING

City staff members involved with emergency operational training took part in a WEB EOC exercise with Monterey County Office of Emergency Services and the City of Monterey. WEB EOC is an emergency management tool for public safety officials that can be used in any emergency. The system organizes data sources and identifies resource needs for individual events or regional situations involving multiple EOCs (Emergency Operations Centers). Carmel staff members will be participating in an earthquake exercise using WEB EOC.

UNITED STATES POST OFFICE

Chief Calhoun and the City Administrator met with local Postmaster Sandra Tamiano regarding several matters. The city has received numerous complaints recently about long lines

and only one window open for service. Tamiano said that she had no employees on vacation or leave so business should have been “as usual.” (The post office has five employees—three counter clerks and two “backroom” mail distributors.) The Administrator apprised her that the citizenry is “talking” so she should be aware of their complaints.

They also discussed a change in practice as of January 1. For many years, low income seniors housed by the Carmel Foundation received free post boxes. Without advance warning, as of the beginning of this year, the USPS began charging. Tamiano could not explain why there had been no assessment in the past. The most recent policy was from 2011, but it was unknown whether the policy was new at that time or merely a reaffirmation of continuing policy. The Postmaster will clarify the policy with postal officials in Oakland.

Chief Calhoun discussed several recent complaints regarding an individual sleeping in the post office who is frightening late evening users. The Chief provided the Postmaster with a letter from Don Freeman offering public safety assistance to the USPS. No response had been received to that correspondence. Tamiano promised to respond to the Chief after reviewing the matter.

SCENIC ROAD RESTROOM

Several issues have arisen regarding the new restrooms and are being addressed by the staff. First, several comments were recently made regarding the possibility of making the facilities unisex. The Building Official has opined that there is no prohibition in the Building Code regarding public unisex facilities, so

staff is working with the architect and contractor on appropriate signage. Second, when the Planning Commission reviewed the landscape plan last month, it wanted the seating wall, which extends from the restroom structure, to be extended beyond its current terminus. Staff is contacting the mason who did the stonework regarding implementing the Commission’s request.

CAL AM

The City Administrator has written a letter to Cal Am asking for information on the age and condition of all its water pipes and hydrants in Carmel; and its schedule, if any, to replace the oldest or most troublesome lines. This schedule is important to ensure working cooperatively on timing street paving projects vs. Cal Am’s replacement schedule.

MISSION TRAIL NATURE PRESERVE

An estimated twenty-five volunteers are meeting regularly to do rehab and brush clearing along the Flanders Trail in the Preserve.

BUDGET 2015-16

In May when the initial public presentation of the budget is made, the community and the Council will receive two documents—the customary budget with “the numbers” and a second booklet which contains the “Issues and Options Policy Papers.” These papers will contain, in narrative format, the significant additions or deletions from the Budget from prior years and will provide the Council with policy options addressing those issues.



Charlotte Townsend

A FORMER MAYOR SPEAKS OUT

Over its 99-year history, Carmel-by-the-Sea has celebrated (with a few exceptions) many leaders – namely our mayors. Our first chosen leader was AP Fraser, elected in 1916, at the incorporation of this small village. And as we all know our last and currently serving mayor is Jason Burnett—our 34th leader. The subject of today’s profile, a truly distinguished lady, and Carmel’s first lady, was elected in 1982. We could very well refer to her as a Carmel icon but Charlotte Townsend would have none of that.

Ms. Townsend has a long history of service to our community which continues to this day, and we could easily fill this space with her contributions. But in a break with our regular format we thought we’d limit our questions to just one: As a person who has lived and served here for many years, what are your opinions, both positive and otherwise, of Carmel-by-the-Sea today—are we getting it right?

Let me just begin by saying the reason I came into politics in Carmel was to preserve the traditions, the beauty and ambiance of this by-the-sea unique village; and among other things, to preserve the arts which flourished even before we were a town. The promotion and encouragement of the arts today are essential to the basic character of this town. In fact I’m just one of many citizens who believe we must look ahead now, not later, to establish an art museum to contain our fine collection of early California paintings and Edward Weston photographs which linger in storage out of the public eye. What a waste. So I ask, why not reestablish an Arts Commission to begin the job of creating a museum for the pleasure and enlightenment of our citizens and visitors?

Now, while I understand that commerce is vital to every town large and small, there must be in Carmel an emphasis on

the residents. And I’m certainly not the first person to say this. In fact, Ordinance 96 is displayed in the Council Chambers and states that Carmel is primarily and principally a residential town. Let’s not forget: Carmel is first and foremost a village dedicated and managed for its citizens. My hope is that residents and businesses can live and flourish together. My belief is that it is a privilege to live in Carmel. And I’m not alone in that belief.

Money and the getting of it has seemed in the last years to be the motivating ingredient in city government. In my opinion the city needs to focus on how it spends its money. Yes, we need taxes to run our city and yes, we do depend on our visitors for revenue, but at the loss of millions of gallons of precious water that we don’t have; and to support commercial auto shows, thousands of dollars in promotion and advertising for tourists, and enough wine bars for a city ten times our size? Frankly, I don’t think so.

Another question: Is the third time the charm for parking meters? That’s right, it has been tried and failed twice. The only difference this time is that the meters are embedded in concrete.

We all know, or we should know, that our beautiful white sand beach has been neglected for years. We’re beginning to

take seriously some solutions in terms of the picnic fires, their numbers and positions. It has been reported that as many as 126 fires have been seen on some summer weekend nights. We can hope that the pilot program of installing twenty-six fire rings will make a significant difference in the trash and ash and charcoal left behind through so many years.

Oh, I’m not all negative. In fact I’m an optimist. And one of my best actions, and I take pride in this, is that it was I who hired Doug Schmitz who is back with us as City Administrator. He is so capable, such a fine administrator in all areas of management. What a relief after too many years of turmoil, all of it unnecessary and costly.

I have lived in Carmel for seventy years. One of my greatest pleasures is to have served my town. As I recall the beauty, the quiet and the creative spirit of the past I beg the current leaders and those who follow to STOP. Consider before you vote, how you manage, and how you preserve what has been for nearly a hundred years one of the world’s most unique and charming villages.

Three Carmelites and the Coit Tower Murals

PRESERVING A PIECE OF CALIFORNIA HISTORY

Coit Tower is one of San Francisco's most prominent landmarks. Atop Telegraph Hill, it commands spectacular views. When first built in 1933, the Tower was probably the highest point on the San Francisco skyline, welcoming people arriving on ferryboats from Sausalito or Oakland.

Coit Tower honors Lillie Hitchcock Coit, a wealthy eccentric patroness of the City's firefighters. When she died in 1929, she bequeathed a sizeable sum "for the purpose of adding to the beauty of the city I have always loved." These funds were used to build the Tower, as designed by Arthur Brown, Jr., who also designed San Francisco's City Hall.

Though not a part of the original architectural plan, after the Tower's completion, a group of twenty-five artists were engaged to paint murals on its interior walls. The project was underwritten by the federal Public Works of Art Project, the precursor to the WPA Federal Art Project.

In the April 29, 2014 *Examiner*, Ruth Gottstein and Jon Golinger wrote, "With the broad charge to create art depicting the theme of 'Life in California,' the Coit Tower painters brought their very different backgrounds, perspectives and skills to work every morning to blend the reality on the streets they saw and the hopeful future they believed in to 22 fresco murals and five oil paintings that are so collaborative many people mistakenly believe they were all created by a single artist."

During the years following their completion in 1934, the murals suffered the devastating effects of neglect and abuse. In 2014, after San Francisco voters passed a Coit Tower Preservation Policy ballot initiative, an extensive rehabilitation project was completed, restoring the murals to their original grandeur.

Undoubtedly, many people who worked on the original project spent time in Carmel, but three became long-term residents: Colonel Harold Mack, Maxine Albro, and Parker Hall. Colonel Mack was a member of the four-man committee appointed by the federal government to monitor the project. Maxine and Parker were among the twenty-five artists. For their murals, Parker was assigned the theme of collegiate sports; Maxine was assigned the theme of California's agriculture.

After completing her formal education at the California School of Fine Arts in San Francisco, the Art Students League in New York and l'Académie de la Grand Chaumière in Paris, Maxine went to Mexico to learn fresco painting. Although they never had a formal teacher-student relationship, she spent many hours observing Diego Rivera at work. She also studied with one of Rivera's assistants. Maxine became one of the few American women to establish a reputation as a fresco muralist, leading to her appointment on the Coit Tower project. Later commissions included murals at the former San Francisco State University campus, Vallejo High School, the Allied Arts Guild in Menlo Park, the Biltmore Hotel in Santa Barbara, and the Hofsas House in Carmel.

Parker was probably recommended for the project by another Tower artist, Ralph Stackpole, one of his teachers at the California School of Fine Arts. Despite Parker's excellent work as a muralist, he was primarily a sculptor, having studied with Antoine Bourdelle in Paris. He was also a talented etcher and lithographer. Most of his work is now in private collections, but his wood carvings decorate one of the original lecture halls on the UCSF Parnassus Campus.

After their marriage in 1938, Maxine and Parker moved to Carmel and renewed their acquaintance with Colonel Mack. Having accumulated considerable wealth,



Maxine Albro
Photo courtesy of the
San Francisco History
Center, San Francisco
Public Library



Parker Hall.
Photo courtesy of the
family of Parker Hall
and Maxine Laney

the Colonel purchased a thirty-acre tract on the outskirts of Monterey to develop a magnificent hacienda. A devout Catholic, he commissioned Maxine to paint a mural using ecclesiastical themes and commissioned Parker to carve limestone sculptures of St. Christopher and two angels. In 1949, Colonel Mack moved to Carmel and sold the estate to the Dominican Sisters for the campus of Santa Catalina School. Maxine's mural and Parker's sculptures remain on display there.

This spring the Cherry Foundation is presenting a special exhibit to celebrate the restoration of the Coit Tower murals and highlight Carmel's connection to the project. It will feature photographs of all twenty-five artists with brief texts about each one. It will also display the work of Maxine Albro and Parker Hall.

The opening reception will be at 5:00pm on Friday, April 17th, 2015. The exhibit will close on May 22nd.



Community CALENDAR

■ CRA GENERAL MEETING

Thursday, March 26th, 5 pm
Kent Seavey
"The Many Faces of Downtown Carmel"
Vista Lobos
(3rd Ave between Junipero and Torres)
Free and open to the public

■ CRA DINES OUT

Wednesday, April 15, 5:30
Christopher's, Lincoln between 5th & 6th

■ CITY COUNCIL MEETINGS

Tuesday, March 3rd and April 7th
All meetings 4:30 pm
City Council Chambers

■ BEACH CLEANUP

Saturday, March 21st and Saturday, April 18th
10:00 am-12:00 pm
Meet at the foot of Ocean Avenue.

ONGOING CITY MEETING DATES:

All held in City Council Chambers,
Monte Verde between Ocean and 7th.
Check with City Hall for updates.
<http://ci.carmel.ca.us/>

City Council, 1st Tues., 4:30 pm
Forest and Beach Commission,
2nd Thurs., 1:30 pm
Planning Commission,
Wednesday March 11th
Wednesday April 8th, 4 pm
Community Activities and Cultural
Commission, 2nd Tues., 9:30 am
Historic Resources Board, 3rd Mon., 4 pm
Library Board of Trustees, 4th Wed., 9 am

Please see the CRA's website for the
schedule of meetings and events.

www.carmelresidents.org

Council meeting TV broadcast:
the Sunday after the meeting,
8:00 am-noon, Channel 26.



LINDSAY HANNA

CRA Dines Out! AT

CHRISTOPHERS

ON LINCOLN AVENUE BETWEEN 5TH & 6TH
CARMEL, CA 93921
831.626.8000

SERVING DINNER FROM 5PM



CRA DINES OUT! WEDNESDAY, APRIL 15TH, AT CHRISTOPHER'S

The "CRA Dines Out!" committee's Claire Fay and Barry and Kathleen Swift have chosen longtime Carmel favorite Christopher's for April's special CRA members-only dinner, featuring a seasonal three-course menu selected just for the CRA. Wine will be available - CASH ONLY - at 5:30pm, with dinner served at 6:00pm.

Christopher's casual and contemporary atmosphere, along with award-winning chef/owner Christopher Caul's 30+ years of experience gastronomique, guarantee a sophisticated evening of savory treats for CRA gourmets. Catch up with your CRA friends and sample seasonal cuisine with us at Christopher's.

Seating is limited, so please send your check well in advance of the deadline, Wednesday, April 8th.

Please mail your entrée choice and check for \$40, made payable to the CRA, to Claire Fay, P.O. Box 6023, Carmel, CA 93921. You will be notified only if you have been placed on the waiting list. If you reserve space and must cancel, please call Claire at 831-238-7798, so your place may be given to someone else.

Chef Proprietor Christopher Caul has created the following menu for our Spring 2015 Dines Out:

■ FIRST COURSE CHOICES

Organic field greens with mustard vinaigrette

~OR~

Wild mushroom soup garnished with fresh horseradish

■ ENTREE CHOICES

Local sole filled with Dungeness crab and shrimp, Christopher's garlic mashed potatoes and fresh market vegetables

Organic chicken Cordon Bleu, Christopher's garlic mashed potatoes and fresh market vegetables

Boneless BBQ beef short ribs, Christopher's garlic mashed potatoes and fresh market vegetables

■ DESSERT

Flourless chocolate torte

~OR~

Zabaglione with fresh berries

Coffee or Tea

House red or white wine will be available at \$6 per glass plus tip. CASH ONLY (tax included).

Christopher's is located on Lincoln Street between 5th and 6th. Hope to see you there!

THE CRA SALUTES THE CARMEL FOUNDATION FOR SIXTY-FIVE YEARS OF SERVICE TO SENIORS

In April 1950, a group of Carmel citizens sat down to decide what might be done to serve the village's "elders." Thus began a 65-year "Adventure in Neighborliness." At first, a few people gathered with bag lunches. Today, nearly one hundred people enjoy delicious hot lunches, served four days a week.

In 1965, the Foundation purchased two old motels to institute a low-income housing program. Today, there are three buildings and fifty apartments to support people who have lived in Carmel for many years but could otherwise no longer afford to live here. Over the years a vast number of people have participated in Foundation programs and services, to pursue what interests them and socialize with friends. The Foundation opens a world of adventure, activity and learning for the young at heart.

In addition to its lunch service and housing, the Foundation offers a wide array of activities and assistive services. Over fifty interesting classes and programs are provided each week. A popular tour program is available; Spring trips have included matinees of popular musicals in San Francisco, visits to special exhibits at the DeYoung and Legion of Honor, and "on-your-own" trips arriving and departing from San Francisco's Union Square. Volunteers provide transportation assistance and also offer meal delivery to homebound patients. Free loans of medical equipment are available.

In 2012, the Foundation launched an innovative program called Monterey Bay Village (MBV). The Village Movement is a grassroots concept sweeping the country. MBV is the first such Village to open on California's Central Coast.

The fundamental philosophy of the Village is that many, if not most, seniors can "age in place." With supportive services they may, if they choose, remain in their own homes. In many respects, Carmel is an ideal community for the Village concept. Many residents purchased their homes with a view to their eventual retirement. Often their homes are smaller one-story structures, which lend themselves to adaptations to accommodate increasingly limited mobility.

For an annual fee, Village members may access a wide array of services. The MBV maintains a carefully screened list of builders and handymen who will modify homes to facilitate safe and secure living and provide necessary repairs and maintenance, often at discounted rates. It offers volunteers to assist with transportation for errands, medical appointments and grocery shopping. It also offers a variety of volunteer opportunities for members who wish to remain active and contributing members of the community. If they are homebound, meals can be delivered. When members are receiving continuing care from family members or paid aides, MBV provides respite for the caregivers. MBV members are also offered access to all activities, classes, trips, and programs offered through the Foundation.

Inevitably, along with the rest of America, Carmel's population will include increasing numbers of senior citizens. Its residents are singularly fortunate in having access to the services offered by the Foundation.

The Carmel Foundation is a non-profit organization that receives no government funding whatsoever. It is supported entirely by the generosity of our community. The Foundation celebrates its 65th anniversary at its annual Gala at the Monterey Peninsula Country club on April 25th.

NOMINATION PROCEDURE FOR THE CRA BOARD OF DIRECTORS

According to the bylaws, CRA members may nominate candidates for the board of directors. These candidates will be added to the slate presented by the nominating committee. The bylaws specify that a petition, signed by ten members in good standing, may be submitted to make a nomination. According to the prescribed deadline, this year nominating petitions must be received by April 1st, 2015. Nominees will be added to the ballots contained in the May/June edition of the CRA News. Petitions should be sent to the CRA, P.O. Box V, Carmel, CA 93921.

WHAT IS CRA ALL ABOUT?

The Carmel Residents Association is committed to the protection and enrichment of the traditional quality of life in Carmel-by-the-Sea and the preservation of its heritage and natural beauty through education, community activities and advocacy.

BECOME A MEMBER!

It's easy to become a member of the Carmel Residents Association.

- Visit us online:
www.carmelresidents.org
- or email us:
carmelresidents@gmail.com
- or call us: **831-626-1610**

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Barbara Livingston, President	626-1610
Richard Stiles, Vice President	626-0325
Ann Nelson, Secretary	626-4252
Michael LePage, Treasurer	625-3779
Christine Gaspich, Membership	620-1764
David Banks	624-0317
Janine Chicourrat	241-2992
Mary Condry	625-2855
Barbara Hardy	293-8750
Tom Parks	625-9094
Sondra Rees	624-4242
Judy Refuerzo	917-6072
Charlotte Townsend	624-0780
Ken White	624-4538
Jon Wolfe	625-2697

CRA NEWSLETTER TEAM

Community Calendar	Judy Refuerzo
CRA Dines Out!	Claire Fay
Editorials	Guest writers
President's Message	Barbara Livingston
Village Profiles	Tom Parks
Old Carmel	Richard Flower
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The CRA Board wishes to assure our members that we do not sell, trade, lend or in any other way share our mailing list with any organization or company. This list is held in the strictest confidence for our organization's use only.



did you KNOW???

THE ONGOING SMOLDERING ISSUE: HOW TO PRESERVE OUR BEACH

Another confrontation is underway between advocates of immediate enjoyment and people who believe that precious resources should be protected against ultimate loss. In this instance the focus is on Carmel's beach.

The truth is inescapable: Our white-sand beach can no longer tolerate the effects of the unlimited and uncontrolled fires that have been traditionally tolerated. Some solution must be found.

Unfortunately, a vigorous disinformation campaign is being pursued, primarily using social media. Two untruths are repeated. The first is that currently recommended solutions are insidious first steps toward entirely banning fires. The second is that these efforts are going on secretly "behind closed doors."

The Forest and Beach Commission, the City Council, and City staff are actually diligently seeking solutions that will forestall the need to ban fires. Far from being secretive, during the past year they have offered at least fifteen opportunities for public participation in their deliberations: discussions at ten different Forest and Beach Commission meetings, one meeting of the Planning Commission, three public workshops, and one meeting of the City Council.

Current plans to limit the number of fires allowed and install rings to contain them are experiments. Instead of mounting protests, beach fire enthusiasts should participate in these experiments. Let's all be part of the solution, not part of the problem.

POLICE ALERT

The Carmel Police Department is issuing an alert to residents. If your car can be locked either with a remote control or manually, use the manual locking option. Somehow thieves are able to break the remote locking code to steal the contents of the cars, and sometimes the cars!

DESIGNS FOR HOLMAN HIGHWAY ROUNDABOUT

The Transportation Agency of Monterey County in partnership with the City of Monterey is finalizing the design for a Holman Highway 68 roundabout at Highway One. The project will begin in September 2015 and take a year to complete.