

the VOICE

OF THE CARMEL RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION

CELEBRATING **30** YEARS OF COMMUNITY SERVICE

NOVEMBER • DECEMBER 2017

Meet City Hall's New Fab Four Moving Forward Speaker Series



Many city officials are little-known to the public they serve. Their names are occasionally referenced, but usually not often enough to be household words. Their faces, seldom photographed, often go unrecognized around town. Yet, without city hall employees in responsible positions fine-tuning the machinery of government, the city would quickly grind to a halt.

In the next installment of the CRA's "Moving Forward" speaker series, four city employees will address members of the CRA and members of the public, explaining what they do and how they do it, and engaging in a question-and-answer session with the audience. The meeting is scheduled for Thursday, November 16 in Carpenter Hall, Sunset Center. Admission is free. The proceedings get underway at 5 p.m.

Three of Carmel's new Fab Four are recent hires by Carmel-by-the-Sea City Administrator Chip Rerig. They are: Robert (Bob) Harary, director of public works; Marnie Waffle, assistant planning director, and Dick J. Bower, building official. Marc Wiener, although technically not a newbie, is included on our panel because the planning department is one of the most important departments in the city.

In the course of their work for the city, these four officials often work

collaboratively. The big new construction project (*see architect's rendering above*) on the southwest corner of Fifth Avenue and Dolores Street, for example, came together through the combined efforts of their departments well before the project broke ground.

Here are short job descriptions of these new 'kids' on the block, provided to The Voice by the panelists:

- Marc Wiener, community planning and building director, administers the zoning code and general plan and provides direction to planning staff on both current and long-range planning projects. He is the primary liaison to the city council, planning commission, and historic resources board. He also sets the work program for the department and is responsible for operational improvements.

- Marnie Waffle, assistant planning director, assists the director with special projects as needed. She is responsible for administering the zoning code and general plan, and is the lead planner on the city's most-complex planning projects. She manages the associate and assistant planners and oversees the production of the planning commission and historic resources board packets. In time, she will be the primary liaison to the historic resources board.

- Dick J. Bower, building official, serves in the building safety division. Here is what he told us about his responsibilities: "The division is generally responsible for ensuring public safety in the built environment through the enforcement of the building, plumbing, electrical, mechanical, and fire codes under Title 15 of the Carmel Municipal Code. We do that by reviewing construction drawings ... periodically inspecting projects during construction ... and issuing final approvals upon completion. The division processes some 450 permits per year and conducts more than 2,400 inspections per year." In addition, the building division coordinates with other city, regional and state agencies to ensure their regulatory requirements are met, updates codes for a changing construction industry and develops educational and information materials.

- Bob Harary, director of public works, directs the public works department, which operates on a \$3.6 million budget and employs 21 staff (though there are presently five vacancies). Harary told The Voice: "I am responsible for five operating divisions: environmental programs, such as storm water compliance ... facilities maintenance of 33 buildings ... forest, parks and beach ... project management, including managing permits design and construction of infrastructure projects; and streets, including maintenance and repair of pavement, berms, sidewalks, traffic signs, drainage," and more.

NOVEMBER SPEAKERS & MEETING

Thursday, November 16th

5:00PM

LOCATION:

Carpenter Hall, Sunset Center

Free and open to the public.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

BY BARBARA LIVINGSTON



"HOORAY FOR VOLUNTEERS WE THINK THE WORLD OF YOU"



I title my President's Messages on borrowed show tunes. For those titles I came to depend on our sage, Dick Flower. With the passing this July of our beloved Dick, I turned to Christine Rue for inspiration for this issue's Thanksgiving theme of giving thanks for our community's invaluable volunteers. She found our headline from these song lyrics:

"Hooray for Volunteers"

(Sung to the tune of Johnny Mercer and Richard A. Whiting's "Hooray for Hollywood")

Hooray for volunteers

Those extra super-special volunteers

We couldn't cope without your smiling faces

And feel this place is

Great because you are here

Those tough jobs we wish

We could accomplish

You take on and do with the best of cheer

Hooray for volunteers

With you on board our troubles disappear

And any one of you will always come through

Each time we need you

To help us get the job done

We think the world of you

And of the job you do

Hooray for volunteers

I want to express the deepest gratitude to volunteers all over this world, and in particular to those in Carmel who dedicate their free hours to making our community a better and happier place to live.

The most recent expression of the Carmel Residents Association's volunteerism was our "Fiesta Goes Luau", held August 31 at Indian Village, in Pebble Beach. CRA board member and event coordinator Ann Nelson worked long and hard to come up with a new format for our annual fiesta, and she came out a winner. Thanks go, too, to city council members Carrie Theis and Carolyn Hardy for attending this fun event. Mayor Steve Dallas sent word he had a commitment to his daughter's back to school night.

A round of applause, please, for Fred Bologna, who masterminded the decorations, and for Ovilee Kennedy, who put together a fantastic array of raffle and live auction prizes. Of course, there were the teams of bartenders, raffle sellers, lei greeters, table-setters and take-downers, and the men and women who provided the side dishes with Bruno's ribs and chicken. A really splendid effort all around.

CRA board members don't just volunteer for our organization.

Our vice president Loren Hughes is also a Point Lobos docent, and as of January, he will sit on the Point Lobos Foundation Board of Directors.

Indefatigable Ann Nelson volunteers at the Carmel Foundation, the Joining Hands thrift shop, and Carmel Mission's rice and beans delivery to farmworkers in Gonzales.

Board member Lauren Banner chairs the CRA Lovers of Carmel Beach monthly clean-ups. She is also a board member at Sustainable Carmel.

Who could forget our board's two former Carmel mayors, Charlotte Townsend and Ken White? Charlotte is a board member and past chair of the Carmel Area Waste Water District. Ken is a multi-tasking volunteer. He is president of Friends of Sunset, chair of Carmel Area Waste Water District and chair of the Monterey County Pops Symphony.

Dick Stiles volunteers for Meals on Wheels, is a board member of Democratic

Club of the Monterey Peninsula, vice chair of CRA Lovers of Carmel Beach's clean-up program and serves as a marshal at the ATT Pro-Am golf tournament.

Darlene Mosley is Carmel's representative to the Joint Powers Authority for Community Human Services in Monterey County.

CRA treasurer Jon Wolfe is a docent at the Monterey Bay Aquarium

Board member and former CRA president Mary Condry is an usher at Sunset Theatre, a choir member at Carmel Mission, and sits on the steering committee for Carmel Mission's rice and beans program for farmworkers.

We think the world of you. Hooray for volunteers!



Beach Clean-Up chair Dick Stiles and chair Lauren Banner

Photo: Chuck Banner

CRA Communications Team

Voice Newsletter: Barbara Livingston,

David Armstrong, Mary Condry

Tom Parks (editorial board)

Kyle Ferdinand (design and production)

Kathy Fredrickson (e-blast manager),

Carl Iverson and Vicki Kou (distribution),

Lauren Banner (Facebook manager),

Loren Hughes (e-mail manager),

We Asked, You Answered

Photos: Georgina Armstrong



This summer the Carmel Residents Association Board of Directors undertook the largest CRA membership survey in memory when we sent a three-page questionnaire about life in Carmel to every member. We wanted to know what our members care about most and what concerns them the most. Eighty-five CRA members took the time to answer our questions, writing comments and adding issues of their own such as the proliferation of winery-owned tasting rooms that weren't on our list but are on our members' minds.

We asked respondents to rate the importance of issues on a score of one to five, with one being a matter of little concern and five being intense concern. We compiled a tally of fours and fives, which show serious concern, and a second tally (*in parenthesis, right*) that included 50 percent of the threes, as that in-between score could go either way.

The final compilation shows that our members are more concerned with the neighborhoods, the beach and downtown than with tourism (except for destination marketing of Carmel-by-the-Sea). The three hottest issues for members are verbal touting by some downtown businesses, the cleanliness of Carmel Beach, and the possible expansion of wood fires along the entire length of Carmel Beach. In fact, those three topics received many comments with exclamation points added for emphasis.

There weren't any suggestions as to what the city could do about touting, but members are very bothered by this sidewalk phenomenon. Comments on the beach cited the city's lack of an effective

beach clean-up program, adding that there should be less reliance on the kindness of volunteers. On a 30-minute beach walk in mid-October, the Voice found unwanted trash, dog feces, charred wood on the sand, and many bits of charcoal on the sand (see photos this page).

Here are the issues with scores above 50 percent:

| | 4's & 5's | 3's |
|--|-----------|-------|
| Touting | 81% | (84%) |
| Beach cleanliness | 79% | (85%) |
| Expansion of wood-fires up and down Carmel Beach | 73% | (76%) |
| Short-term rentals | 67% | (76%) |
| Street conditions | 62% | (70%) |
| Downtown cleanliness | 59% | (71%) |
| Construction on weekends | 59% | (68%) |
| Wood fires on Carmel Beach | 56% | (62%) |
| Destination marketing of Carmel | 54% | (61%) |
| Public smoking | 54% | (61%) |
| Commercial traffic | 51% | (65%) |

Thank you for telling us what's on your mind. You told us two things: first, members love living in this beautiful part of the world, and second, many think Carmel should and can be better-run. This eye-opening survey will help guide us in our decision-making, policy positions and interactions with city officials and community leaders.

To that end, the CRA Board of Directors decided in its October meeting to ask the CRA Issues Committee to develop an action plan to address members' concerns. When it's finalized, that plan will be detailed in these pages and on www.carmelresidents.org.

Carmel Residents Association BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Barbara Livingston, President

Loren Hughes, Vice President

Jon Wolfe, Treasurer

Ann Nelson, Secretary

Members: David Armstrong,
Lauren Banner, Janine Chicourrat,
Mary Condry, Christine Gaspich,
Darlene Mosley, Tom Parks,
Ann Pendleton, Dick Stiles,
Charlotte Townsend, Ken White

NEW .ORG Debuts This Fall

www.carmelresidents.org

The Carmel Residents Association has had a dedicated web site, www.carmelresidents.org, since the 1990s. But like cell phones the size of a brick and dial-up Internet connections, the site has been showing its age. That changes this Fall.

The CRA has engaged the web experts at Monterey Bay Design (www.montereybaydesign.com) to rebuild and redesign our site for the 21st century. Collaboratively with the CRA, company principal Deborah Ryder is working to relaunch the site in the coming weeks. Meanwhile, the present carmelresidents.org, run by our longtime friend Evelyn Starr, is fully operational. Evelyn is retiring at year's end after many years of outstanding work.

The new site will encompass a wide range of new and tried-and-true features. We'll have: a refreshed photo gallery; a wholly new home page rich with signature images of Carmel-by-the-Sea; every new issue of The Voice in color; info on how to become a member and the benefits of renewing; a calendar of CRA events; a timely, frequently-updated feature called This Just In for breaking news and views about Carmel, and much more.

Look for it soon.

Glen Mozingo

Carmel's Legal Eagle

BY TOM PARKS

Glen R. Mozingo is the recently appointed city attorney of Carmel-by-the-Sea. A long-time resident of Carmel, he is married to former city clerk Heidi Burch and served as a trustee of Harrison Memorial Library. The Voice recently spoke with Mozingo in his city hall office, and over the phone.

Q: Can you tell us something about your background and interests?

I've been practicing law for 38 years. I worked on projects for several municipalities, including San Diego and Los Angeles. I served as a lobbyist for the Automobile Club of Southern California. For some years, I owned a bookstore specializing in rare books on Berkeley Square, London. I found myself in Oxford, where I took the bar. So, as it turned out, I am an American lawyer and an English barrister.

Q: What are you finding to be your greatest challenge as city attorney here in Carmel?

I suppose the greatest challenge is the backlog of work that has been given to me. We, the city council and myself, originally thought I would spend 20 hours a week in my current position. I'm currently spending about 62.5 hours a week due to the backlog. So, I asked each city department manager to prepare a list of important pending projects ... the projects from all departments are 13 pages long. We're looking at enforcement, civil litigation, environmental and consumer protection and other issues relevant to Carmel.

"The statement is clear. The city is committed to its residents, their concerns, their lives."

Q: Short-term rentals are illegal outside the downtown business district in Carmel. Is the city moving aggressively to curtail violations?

In 1989, there was a short-term rental ordinance in place. I can tell you that in 27 years there was not one violation enforced. Today, the activity of holiday or vacation home rentals has exploded. The city has retained a monitoring service of

all web sites in the business we're talking about. We have identified 120 individuals who are running this type of business in the city of Carmel. We sued one. A property owner agreed to pay \$42,000 in penalties and costs. An announcement was made at a recent city council meeting that in the future full enforcement will be rendered in every instance of illegal short-term rental in this city. We have sent a message.



Q: The site of the now-closed Carmel Resort Inn, which takes up nearly an entire city block, is deteriorating daily. At what point would the city consider using the power of eminent domain to take over and develop the property?

Certain conditions would have to be met. The city would need engineering warrants demonstrating that the property is an

'attractive nuisance' and presents a clear and present danger to this community. Those would be pretty extreme circumstances. In order for a city or municipality to take that step, there would have to be no reasonable alternative or resolution.

Q: A former city administrator has been quoted as saying

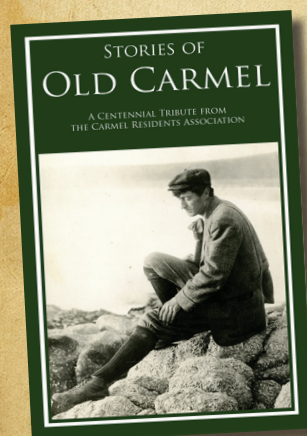
"Carmel is different, and it got that way on purpose." You have publically referred to Carmel Ordinance 96, which states in part: "Carmel is primarily, essentially and predominately a residential city." That's a strong statement and one that is often cited by locals. What prompted you to refer to that quotation?

There is a placard with that very statement that hangs in the council chambers. Carmel, by virtue of those words, is protected. The statement is clear. The city is committed to its residents, their concerns, their lives. We know that there has got to be an understanding between residents and businesses. We can't have one and not the other; there has got to be a balance. I can say that the citizens in this town are heavily involved in their community. That has to be a good thing, and is not always found in many small enclaves. Carmel has an open government, and that's the way it must continue to be. We must remember that Carmel-by-the-Sea is known internationally. What better distinction is there than to say Carmel is known and cherished for its trees, its residents and its dogs?

THE PERFECT HOLIDAY GIFT FOR EVERYONE
WHO LOVES CARMEL-BY-THE-SEA

STORIES OF OLD CARMEL:

A collection of fifty-eight stories about significant and colorful people and events in the history of Carmel, illustrated with vintage photographs, drawings and cartoons



"The romance of old Carmel: foggy nights, misty beaches, stone cottages, artists and individuals creating a special town. Their stories are told in this delightful book"

-Diane Simonds,
River House Books

— Available at —
Pilgrim's Way Book Store • River House Books
Carmel Bay Company • Carmel Drug Store

A CENTENNIAL TRIBUTE FROM THE CARMEL RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION

Silencing Street Touts

Employees standing outside downtown storefronts or calling out from wide-open doorways in an aggressive attempt to solicit business from passers-by have been a fact of Carmel life for at least a decade. But while residents and frequent visitors may be used to sidewalk touts, that doesn't mean they willingly accept touting. Far from it.

When the CRA circulated a membership survey this past summer, sidewalk touting generated the most critical response of any of the 15 items on our questionnaire. Some residents took the time to write comments about the annoyingly persistent practice. Many were scathing.

Referring to a downtown jewelry store, one respondent wrote of the store's employees "beckoning women from across the street in the name of 'Let me clean your rings.' Despicable!" "Hate that!" wrote a second member of touting in general. "Must be stopped!" wrote a third about carnival-like call-outs. "I won't walk on Ocean Avenue because of these pesky folks," confided another CRA member.

While it's clear that many Carmelites detest the touts who work just inside or outside cosmetics shops, hat stores and a few restaurants on and near Ocean Avenue, just how to silence touts is less clear.

In recent years, Carmel-by-the-Sea sent letters to several offenders, warning owners and managers against coming out

on the sidewalk to hustle business; those warnings haven't stopped the come-ons called out from open doorways, however.

Two years ago, Santa Barbara wrestled with downtown touting on State Street, especially from employees of skin-care business Gold Elements, which also operated in Carmel until recently. That city's efforts were inconclusive. In a 2015 article by Noozhawk.com, Santa Barbara City Attorney Ariel Calonne was reported to maintain that "while sidewalk sales and portable signs posted outside businesses are illegal practices per city municipal code...the legality of regulating soliciting employees is a bit murkier."

"I have made appointments to meet with these vendors personally."

Carmel City Attorney Glen R. Mazingo told The Voice that a 1942 ruling by the U.S. Supreme Court provides broad protection to businesses that attempt to drum up trade with passersby from inside their own premises, chiefly on free speech grounds. "However," he added, "given the circumstances of carrying on a conversation taken outside the premises, that is clearly something to address."

Mazingo said the city of Laguna Beach issued temporary operating permits that have been revoked for businesses that use outdoor touts. He told The Voice that Carmel may have to write a new ordinance to address the problem of aggressive vendors. Additionally, he said, "I have made appointments to meet with those vendors personally," though the meetings haven't yet taken place.

Of public discontent with street touting, he said, "I think the concern is well-founded, frankly."

One visitor, frustrated by her experience with aggressive touts she says lured her

into a skin care storefront and sold her an empty box of skin cream, decided not to get mad but get even. In August, Cynthia Bentley of Capitola took Ocean Skin Care, a business located near Ocean Avenue and Dolores Street, to Small Claims Court to get her money back. In September, she won. Ocean Skin Care, owned by Hanan and Natali Daham, refunded Bentley's \$1,625.70.



Touting from open doorway on Ocean Ave.

It was a rare win for anti-touting residents and visitors, but there could be more. In line with what Mazingo told The Voice, city code compliance officer Al Fasulo, quoted in the October 13, 2017, issue of the weekly Pine Cone, vintimated the city intends to get more aggressive itself.

"We are continuing to watch" non-compliant businesses – chiefly skin care operations – Fasulo said, adding, "Any violations at this point will be issued misdemeanor citations for the violator to appear in Monterey Superior Court." He said that city hall will also consider hauling vendor violators before the planning commission with an eye toward revoking their business licenses.

It can't happen soon enough for some Carmelites.

"Carmel-by-the-Sea should not allow such behavior," declared a CRA member of street touting businesses that don't respect city laws. "First offense is a heavy fine, and the second offense means red-tagging. All business license renewal paperwork must have a warning notice, so 'We didn't know' is not an acceptable answer. Ignorance of the law is no excuse."



Photo: David Armstrong



Ashlee Wright's New Job

After serving for two years as Carmel-by-the-Sea City Clerk, Ashlee Wright is set to assume the job of heading the city library and community services. Wright, who succeeds Janet Bombard, who recently retired, was selected after what city administrator Chip Rerig termed a national search. While she was city clerk, Wright worked on re-launching the city's badly out of date web site, reorganizing city archives and introduced new systems for managing agendas and documents.

Search on for New City Clerk

Ashlee Wright's departure as city clerk for a new city job opens the position for a new person. Interested? The job pays from \$98,232 to \$119,388, plus benefits. It's a complex job that ranges from preparing information packets and meeting agendas for the city council meetings, revising ordinances after the council adopts them and ensuring city hall complies with the California Public Records Act.

Brown Act: Déjà Vu All Over Again

City Attorney Glen R. Mozingo announced at the September city council meeting that council members underwent a two-hour refresher course on the ins and outs of California's Brown Act, the landmark 1953 state law ensuring that municipal officials don't huddle in private meetings about public business without public oversight.

Ordinance Hearings Rescheduled When City Forgets

Three proposed municipal ordinances scheduled to be presented to the city council at its September meeting were pulled from the agenda at the last-minute. The reason? The city forgot to buy space for public notice of the meeting in the Pine Cone weekly newspaper, as required, before the meeting took place. City Administrator Chip Rerig publically acknowledged the error. "We really messed up," he told the council and members of the public who expected to hear a discussion of the ordinances. "I apologize for that. They will be heard at our October meeting." They were.

Sue Me, Sue You Blues

When we last left the abandoned site of the comically misnamed Carmel Resort Inn (July/August Voice), putative buyers of the property were optimistic that a sale – mired in escrow since 2013 – would soon close. No dice. Instead, Pebble Beach resident and property owner Tong Pyong Kim in September sued Carmel real estate developer Jonathan Sapp and his partners for alleged non-compliance with terms of an expected sale. Sapp and partners countersued.

Meanwhile, the unoccupied property in the northeast corner of the village continues to deteriorate. Overgrown, fire-prone vegetation was belatedly cut back at the city's insistence. But a charred, roofless wooden guest cabin that burned in September 2016 is untouched; a

broken, partly open garage door has gone unrepaired for more than a year; cabin doors meant to close-off water heaters are left ajar; and more. The city has rezoned the property for up to 16 single-family homes, but when the moldering wooden cabins from the circa-1920s motel will be demolished and developed is far from clear.

Encroachment Waiver OK'd, Parking Fee Reduction Nixed

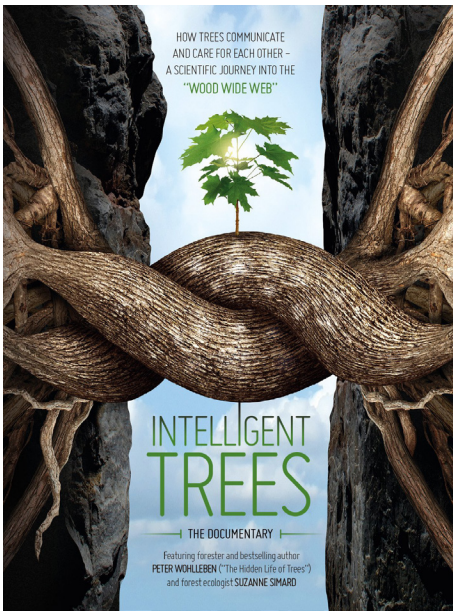
The city council in September approved granting an encroachment waiver for the construction site on the southwest corner of Dolores Street and Fifth Avenue so that building contractors can park vehicles on and along city sidewalks and streets bordering the site. The work, scheduled to last 18 months, pre-empts six public parking spaces. Contractor Dan Silverie requested that \$31 dollar-a-day per space city parking fees be reduced, but the council disagreed. Instead, Carmel will collect all \$101,742 in parking fees for the site, which will eventually be occupied by retail, offices and five residential units.

Public Library Delivers to Homebound Residents

The city library has reminded Carmelites that homebound patrons can still enjoy much of what the library has to offer by receiving delivery of library materials to their homes. The library can drop off regular and large-print books, books on CDs, DVDs, and reference information. Contact Amy Rector at (831) 624-4329 or e-mail her at arector@ci.carmel.ca.us.



Long unrepaired, charred cabin at Carmel Resort Inn. Photo: Georgina Armstrong



Trees in the Sky, Leaves on the Ground

Our September movie matinee “Intelligent Trees” (co-sponsored with Friends of Carmel Forest) was standing room only. One interesting fact we learned from the movie is that compacted soil creates almost insurmountable problems for trees. This is of particular interest to Carmelites, as construction, paving, foot and car traffic can cause irreparable damage to tree roots that grow close to the surface. Viewers learned that to help mitigate the soil compaction leaves should be allowed to fall and not be swept or blown away. The result is a nice spongy texture, which helps to absorb impacts injurious to the health of trees. Plus, leaves on the ground create a more natural, rustic look so appropriate to our village. Another plus is it eliminates the need for noisy, sometimes smelly leaf blowers.

"Stories of Old Carmel," the Ideal Stocking Stuffer
Holiday gift list stumping you? The CRA has the perfect solution: our centennial tribute book “Stories of Old Carmel.” In-laws, out-of-town relatives and friends will welcome your thoughtful gift. Savor the stories of people and events that helped shape the village as you know it today. Its small size is ideal for tucking into a briefcase or carry-on to relieve monotonous hours in airports. “Stories of Old Carmel” is sold at Pilgrim’s Way Books, Carmel Drug Store, Carmel Bay Company, and River House Books.

MUCHOS MAHALOS!

Fiesta Goes Luau was a smashing success, thanks to the efforts of Ann Nelson and her committee, the more than 100 attendees, and to those who gave generously to support the Carmel Residents Association by purchasing raffle tickets, bidding on our live auction prizes and to everyone who contributed prizes.

Raffle prize-winners:

Stay in Puerto Vallarta condo: Joanne Ablan

Dinner and bocce ball hosted by Ann Pendleton: Carrie Theis

Adventures by the Sea kayak rental for four: Stephanie Locke

Carmel walking tour: Lauren Banner

One-hour massage at Massage Envy: Lise Aissen

Monterey Bay Aquarium tour for four: David Armstrong

Olive oil/wine tasting at Trio Carmel: Susan McFarland

Galante wine-tasting/Tree House Cafe certificate: Dave Stoltz

Sunset Presents tickets and Bravo certificate: Philip Aissen

Pacific Repertory Theatre tickets to “Mama Mia!”: Joel Jancsek

One night at Cypress Inn: Gene McFarland

Handmade throw quilt: Lauren Banner

Live Auction winners:

Dinner for six hosted by Gaspichs and Mosleys: Neil and Karen Bonke

Quail Lodge golf for four: Shirley Foley

Thanksgiving's Coming, So Many To Thank

Thank you so much to all the men and women who volunteer for Carmel’s city support groups: Friends of Mission Trail Nature Preserve, Friends of Carmel Forest, Friends of Sunset Foundation, Friends of Harrison Memorial Library and Carmel Public Library Foundation, and, of course, our own volunteers for CRA Lovers of Carmel Beach clean-ups.

And we offer a big round of applause to

the Carmel High School students who volunteered to play live music on the CRA-sponsored truck during the city’s 101st birthday parade in late October. Rock on, CHS!

Very seriously, events of the past few months have underscored just how much we owe to those who do so much to serve: the courageous public safety officers, the stalwart firefighters, helicopter pilots, paramedics and police who put themselves in harms way to help others.

Don’t Miss CRA’s Holiday Dinner Party

Our holiday party will be a scrumptious sit-down dinner at historic La Playa Hotel, southwest corner of Eighth Avenue and Camino Real, starting at 5:30 p.m., Saturday, Dec. 9.

Long-time CRA members will remember the splendid holiday dinners we used to have at this grand dame of Carmel hotels. Memories of Erl Lagerholm come to mind. This was his favorite CRA event and we hold this dinner in his loving memory.

We start with no-host cocktails and complimentary wine on the terrace, then we move to the elegantly decorated dining room, where we start with holiday salad, followed by your choice of entrée and dessert. Entrée choices are roasted chicken with mushroom demi glace, vegetarian pasta, or roast beef with horseradish sauce. Wines will be served with dinner, followed by coffee or tea and warm chocolate layer cake.

A delightful and fun-filled evening is in store for all. Please send-in your \$50 per person reservation check by November 27. Make out the check to ‘CRA’ and send it to Darlene Mosley, P.O. Box 1135, Carmel-by-the-Sea, CA 93921

Carmel Residents Association

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The CRA does not sell, trade, lend or in any other way share our members' information with any organization or company.

👍 CHEERS & CHIDES 👎



CHEERS to our own Charlotte Townsend, former mayor of Carmel-by-the-Sea and CRA board member, who was profiled on page A1 of the Monterey County Herald in September by Herald writer Tom Leyde. As Leyde's piece points out, Mayor Townsend has lived a vivid life as a race-car driver, tennis player, sailor and much more. Truly a remarkable woman. Carmel is lucky to have her.



CHEERS to the Carmel High School student newspaper the Carmel Sandpiper. The paper, published monthly during the school year, provides clean design and crisp writing grounded in real reporting. We especially liked the October issue for its engaging profile of a senior specializing in preservation of the world's oceans who spent part of last year studying at an ocean-themed school in the Bahamas, and a feature on a CHS student who won a nationwide student photography contest sponsored by the United States Congress. The Sandpiper can be found in several off-campus locations, including Carmel Valley Coffee Roasting on Ocean Avenue, and online at <http://thesandpiper.org>.



CHIDES to whomever is responsible for ordering public restrooms at Carmel River State Beach closed at the height of the record-setting Labor Day Weekend heat wave, when partying crowds trying to cool off were also in dire need of restrooms. What were they thinking?



*Parked vehicles often box-in this bus stop.
Photo: David Armstrong*



CHIDES to parking officials for allowing motor vehicles to be parked directly in front of the bus stop on the northeast corner of Junipero Street and Fourth Avenue. Monterey-Salinas Transit bus stop no. 5259, located in front of Carmel Towing and across Fourth from the Carmel-by-the-Sea Police Department, is usually occupied by a parked car, truck or van. MST buses must often double-park on Junipero to board inconvenienced passengers, some of them seniors who have to walk around parked vehicles to get their bus. Frustrating. Why?



CHEERS to the planning commission. Albatross Ridge, expected to occupy a space on Dolores Street

just north of Ocean Avenue, wanted to open for business without a proper Alcoholic Beverage Control license for that type of operation. The thinking was 'we'll get that ABC license later.' On second thought, commissioners decided that, no, actually, the right kind of license must be secured first, then the tasting room can open.



CHIDES to the Monterey County Weekly for its on-going crush on 7D, the well-regarded, of-the-moment steakhouse that opened at Seventh and Dolores in July. In less than three months, the Seaside paper printed three gushing features about the restaurant. The third, in the September 21, 2017, issue, hailed the high-ceilinged building housing the eatery as a "spiritual spot." Good lord. All this and peppercorn sauce, too.



CHEERS to Carmel City Council for its approval in October of a new, gradually phased-in policy to replace plastic straws and utensils used by restaurants and food vendors with biodegradables and recyclables. By next April 22, restaurants and vendors will need to replace all plastic single-use disposable items. Early impetus for this bold, visionary move came from smart students at River School.



CHEERS to Tanimura and Antle, Salinas Valley growers, for their annual donation of berries to our CRA fresh fruit booth on July 4th, and for the pumpkins at the city's annual pumpkin roll.