

the VOICE

OF THE CARMEL RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION

CELEBRATING 32 YEARS OF COMMUNITY SERVICE

JANUARY ♦ FEBRUARY 2019

Carmel-By-The Sea---25 Years On

In a departure from the standard lecture series, CRA this month is presenting a panel of experts in their fields of architecture, city planning, finance, and environmental issues. These distinguished members of the community will look into all things Carmel—25 years on.

What will Carmel look like in 25 years? Who will live here? And where will an increased population reside? More taxes? Less taxes? Will our forests continue to be protected? The beach—will it be seriously impacted by climate change?

There is the daunting question: the consideration of culture and aesthetics of a village known all over the world as a place of peace and beauty.

Can it, the present, be sustained? Will the next generations be as mindful of “who we are” as so many local advocates are now? Those local activists put in hours of valuable volunteer efforts to maintain all that is the best of Carmel. Who will be the next leaders, and the next?

For our specialist on architecture we’ve chosen **Brian Congleton**, a believer in preservation of our business and residential buildings.

Michael LePage has been a member of the Carmel Planning Department for several years. A good, practical mind. A proven, conservative leader when it comes



PHOTO: DAVID L. POTIGIAN, GALLERY SUR

believe that the change is here now. **Mike DeLapa** is an environmentalist. Can we prepare for a future of possible environmental extremes in our daily lives? And how will the expected demand for more and more development affect life in our village and by extension all of Monterey County?

Carmel in its just over 100 years has a grand identity of natural beauty. Qui-

etude, culture, and friendliness. It’s always a pleasure to celebrate that past. But we must look to the future and all that awaits life here just as the world must. And we are ready to take that look, discuss it, parse it, and face it. Now, there’s an opportunity to listen, take note, and maybe learn about the changes that are coming in Carmel’s future.

CRA invites all Carmel citizens to this evening of serious dialogue about the future of this small, beautiful, alluring enclave on the California Central Coast. We will meet on January 16, Carpenter Hall (at Sunset Center) at 5:00 p.m. Wine and social hour will follow the program which is free and open to the public. ■

What will Carmel look like in 25 years?

to building or remodeling requests.

Former City Administrator and local historian, **Douglas Schmitz**, will look to the future through a window of the past. What happened in the last 100 years may well instruct what the future holds for this small village.

Most people have heard arguments, pro and con, regarding the environment, climate change. And most of those people

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CRA invites all Carmel citizens to

Carmel-by-the-Sea *Looking Forward 25 Years*

Wednesday, Jan 16, 2019
at 5:00 p.m.

**Carpenter Hall
at Sunset Center**

Mission St. South of 8th

Free and open to the public



A Fond Farewell and a Hopeful New Beginning

Asincere thank you to outgoing Mayor, Steve Dallas and Councilwoman, Carolyn Hardy. We appreciate their accomplishments, and there were many. Their agenda to meet the varied concerns and interests of Carmel citizens was long and their service of two years was short.

The Carmel Residents Association Board of Directors congratulates newly elected Mayor Dave Potter, along with Council members Carrie Theis and Jeff Baron. We look forward to what the next two years will bring for our village. The Council of five will establish their own agenda to fulfill, one with the interests of all the residents of this village. We expect the new administration to move forward in a timely way with implementation of their enhancement of existing issues and proposed changes as well.

The former administration is to be lauded for its bold move relative to the Flander's mansion after twenty-five years of indecision and stalemate. In place now is a plan to find a curator who would restore the property, pay for that needed restoration and live in the landmark house, eventually turning it back to the



PHOTO: NIC COURY

appearances. The last thing we want is for this beautiful village to become a kind of carnival play land. Do we even know the cost to our city for tourism maintenance? Impacts on our sidewalks, public bathrooms, streets and ability to cope with the tons of trash accumulated every day? We

by famed poet Robinson Jeffers and his wife Una. The new council will have an opportunity, in the new year, to support the Historic Resource Board vote to keep the log cabin on Carmel's list of historic buildings.

Is the new Council listening?

We're all acutely aware that our current budget cannot sustain the demands made on our infrastructure, environment and public safety. We should be looking to increase our revenues by simply raising our hotel tax. Pacific Grove voters recently joined Seaside in raising theirs from 10 percent to 12 percent and Salinas is considering doing the same. Shouldn't Carmel follow their example?

Council, are you listening?

Another interesting case demanding Council attention is that a developer wants the City to grant him public land for his own private use. To sweeten the deal, he has offered to build a sidewalk on the north side of 8th Ave. between Junipero & Mission. To do this, he needs to cut 13 trees on public land, 7 of which are considered significant. The Forest and Beach Commission denied the application, reasoning that the removal of the trees would have a serious effect on the forested character of our village and that there is already a pathway to safely transport pedestrians on the south side of the block. The developer will appeal the Forest & Beach decision to the City Council on January 8th. This proposed development goes against the City's general plan, municipal code and forest management plan. Council, are you listening?

It's a new beginning with hopeful opportunities. Now, please, let's all get to work. ■

We're all acutely aware that our current budget cannot sustain the demands made on our infrastructure, environment and public safety.

city. Is there a better solution than that? We think not and hope the new Council will support this plan.

Tourism is a given. Rather than continuing to moan about the deleterious effects of global tourism on our little village we should develop a plan for its management. What are the options? Limit tourists? Close off Ocean Avenue? Limit the number of tour buses? Eliminate all short-term rentals of condos and apartments in the commercial district? Residents need to share their ideas for the future of our village by attending council meetings and speaking during public

hope the new Council is listening.

Fact: the twenty-first wine tasting/mixed use retailer has applied for a permit. This one, directly across the street from the residential district, which is against city policy.

Is the new Council listening?

Owners of several residential and commercial properties have started to demolish old houses and businesses. New, big and modern are not what Carmel has been known for. Caution: think what we can lose in beauty and character.

As an example, consider the historic log cabin on Monte Verde once inhabited

We Want You!

The CRA Board is constantly monitoring life here in the village on behalf of our membership as well as all of our citizens. Do you have special talents, energy and enthusiasm to share? Would you be interested in joining our Board? If you're interested in us, then we're interested in talking to you.

CRA Celebrates!

The Carmel Residents Association Board of Directors cordially invites our community to attend Carmel's 2018 Citizen of the Year event.

The CRA has been recognizing exceptional locals for the past 30 years and this year we will be honoring Carmel's legendary Charlotte Townsend at an award ceremony and reception.

Doug Schmitz, former Carmel City Administrator and longtime friend of Charlotte Townsend, will moderate the program at which elected officials from Carmel, Monterey County, and the Peninsula will present certificates of appreciation to Charlotte for her years of dedication and involvement in Carmel's civic and cultural life.

Daniel Cardenas, assisted by Sherry Williams and Diane Elliott, will chair the event. "A Party for Your Palate" will cater the refreshments at the reception. The event is free and open to the public. It will take place on February 24th at 3:00 pm at the Carmel Woman's Club.

Citizen of the Year Awards Ceremony

Honoring Carmel's Living Legends

A Community Celebration
hosted by the CRA

Sunday, February 24, 2019
3:00 pm

The Carmel Woman's Club
San Carlos SW Corner of 9th



Water, Water Everywhere...or Not

By Doug Schmitz

The campaign was now arduously proceeding toward finality though the subject matter had been alive for over half a decade. Voting in the election was to be inclusive for all voters of Monterey, Pacific Grove, Carmel-by-the-Sea and the unincorporated regions of Monterey County near the three cities. The issue on the ballot? Water!

A “NO” vote was to maintain the status quo, water purveyed by a far-off corporate entity, guided by profits and dividends for shareholders.

A “YES” vote was for the establishment of a public water system.

Mailers filled the post office boxes of Carmelites. Both the NO and YES campaigns were spending copious amounts of money on ads in area newspapers. After the campaign concluded and the votes counted, *The Carmel Pine Cone* would

paings. For months, *The Monterey Herald* and *The Carmel Pine Cone* ran stories highlighting the opinions of the advocates of the YES and NO efforts, as well as their attacks on the other side.

A former village mayor stated that if the YES side prevailed “we will have tremendous overhead expense running it without the advantage of any reduction in water rates,” adding that additional costs will arise to the taxpayer due to “...the tremendous expense of putting a valuation on the water company’s property, and no end of litigation if the property has to be condemned.”

A prominent Carmel resident and lawyer, well-versed in statewide matters, noted that “The present water rates on the Monterey peninsula are among the highest in the state. Under corporation control, high water rates must be charged



ing the codicil “The question at issue is whether we can get cheaper water through public ownership than under the present setup.”

The NO campaign ads read, in part, that “the real issue, of course, is whether or not the taxpayers are going to be fooled into permitting a group of ambitious office-seekers to set up a utility dictatorship, hand out political plums, entrench themselves in power---and make the taxpayers carry the burden. AND THE TAXPAYERS’ ONLY SAFE ANSWER TO THIS IS TO VOTE NO.”

The mayors of the cities met with attorneys “to discuss means of securing data on valuation of the peninsula water supply.... with a view of acquiring it as a publicly owned project.” Public workshops and meetings were held throughout the area; petitions were conceived, circulated, signed and presented to city councils.

Despite the Election Day weather being “fair” and the issue ubiquitously publicized, just 45% of Carmel’s eligible voters marked their ballots in the booths at the City’s two precincts, the Arts and Crafts building and the fire station. Fifty-percent of the eligible voters on the Peninsula casts ballots.

The result? The lead headline of one Peninsula newspaper read in bold black print, “PUBLIC OWNED UTILITY LOSES BY 2 TO 1 VOTE.” Not one precinct on the Peninsula voted affirmatively for the YES position.

The year? 1935. ■



editorialize that the “NO” advocates had run an “expensive publicity campaign, directed from San Francisco, and probably financed at least in part from San Francisco.”

The week before balloting, an investigative writer summed up the positions of the two crusades, penning that the YES advocates “claim that water bills will thus be reduced” while the NO supporters “insist that higher taxes will be the result.”

Newspaper stories told of past and recent efforts of other California cities to have “public water”. Agents of these entities gave testimonials reliving the experiences, pro and con, of their local cam-

in order to show and return a profit to the shareholders” adding to his commentary that if the water company is publicly owned, “the taxpayers would benefit from this profit.” Another Carmelite wrote that “No commodity so essential to life should be privately owned.”

Public ownership and operation of water systems is not “socialism” and “redounds to the economic advantage of the communities practicing it” said YES proponents, noting that over 200 cities and towns in California owned their own water systems. “The Monterey Peninsula has been fighting for cheaper water rates for 30 years”, spoke one supporter, add-

Hiz Honor, the Mayor, Will See You Now

By Tom Parks

We spent a sunny morning with mayor-elect Dave Potter just a week after the November election. Fit and cheerful and delighted with his victory, Mr. Potter (soon to be Mayor Potter) was looking forward to the next two years. If there had been any stress associated with tenor of the campaign, that was certainly not observed. In fact, onward and upward seemed to be very much on his mind.

■ **First of all, congratulations for your election as Carmel's new Mayor.**

You had a good winning margin. What does this tell you about voters in this village?

Let me just say I'm very grateful for the enthusiasm of so many people. And I'm truly touched by their support of



Dave Potter

my candidacy. I have to tell you that I've never ever had such response following a campaign. I've received countless calls from local residents as well as a few people across the country—somehow, and for some reason, these folks were following the election in this small California village. Very rewarding.

■ **You remarked in the campaign, "We can do better." What did you mean by that?**

I meant that we can have a City Hall that is not only transparent but one that is civil. A government that is open to the public and that speaks with consideration to those who have new ideas, and that those ideas may not agree with certain deliberations or suggestions at Council meetings. As I've said before we need to open-up dialogue where Council members are respectful of the public and of each other, where the business of the government is handled in a timely transparent fashion.

■ **What changes do you see in your administration if any? What issues come to mind that need attention?**

We need to investigate the issues of the City Attorney. We must settle, really answer, some questions which have been on the table too long regarding the attorney. Our streets are being repaired at present. But then we might take a look at some of our sidewalks. I've heard many complaints about drivers—many residents feel speed within the city is a problem. Many believe every intersection in the village should post stop signs on each corner. Of course, I've spoken before, as so many have, about tourism. It's not going to go away. It's a delicate balance between too much and too little. Wine tasting rooms? Think of art galleries or jewelry shops—do we have too many? If so, we need to look at the numbers and act in decisive, careful and judicious ways.

■ **Are you comfortable with the make-up of your peers on the City Council?**

Very. These are all good people, and I'm looking forward to working with them. There's every reason to be optimistic.

■ **You're a builder, a person who runs a business. What kind of time do you think you can devote to the mayor's office?**

Listen, I live just steps from City Hall. I can be there in an instant, if and when I'm called. The work of important issues, even of crises, can be convened in a disciplined way. We don't need frantic phone calls in the middle of the night. If



the job is done professionally, then proper and reasonable results will follow.

■ **You've moved from County Supervisor to Mayor of Carmel. Obviously, you wish to serve your community. What thoughts come to mind at this transition?**

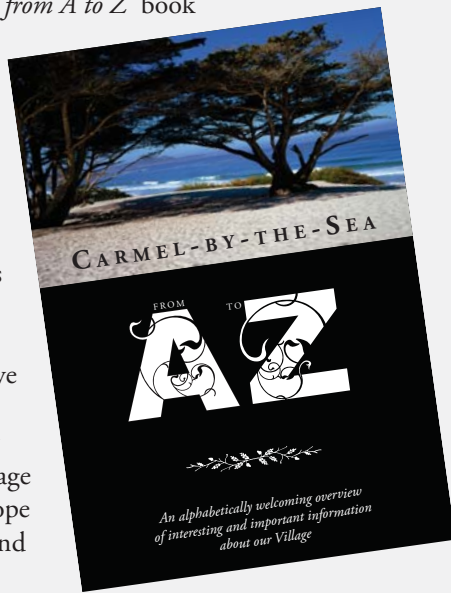
Let me say, I'm honored. The support I've had is not only surprising but rewarding. And the opportunities to serve as Mayor are many. I want to put the public first. I want to hear their voices, their concerns, and yes, their ideas. I look forward to Council meeting where the people of this village will have opportunities to speak, and to have their concerns respectfully considered.

Mr. Mayor, you have the next two years to lead this village. The CRA wishes you success, along with the City Council, including, we are sure, the people of Carmel-by-the-Sea. ■

The November election brought an unprecedented 83% turnout in Carmel. This figure validates the generally held wisdom that by combining its stand-alone April election with that of the National election, Carmel would improve voter turnout.

Sound the Trumpets!

The Carmel Residents Association has updated the *Carmel-by-the-Sea from A to Z* book and has completed its third printing. This fun and fact-filled overview of Carmel has been mailed to all homeowners and CRA members in our city. This is a gift to you from the CRA. We strove to include a good overview of all that our wonderful Village has to offer. We hope you find it useful and enjoy it!



THE POET'S CORNER

I do not want to be a tourist in Carmel-by-the-Sea
walking down Ocean Avenue peering into shops

I do not want to stroll on the beach
sipping wine, eating a deli sandwich

And never do I want to marry on the beach
vows shouted over wind ruffling hair

No, I want to live forever here in paradise
feeling the immensity of nature

I want to watch the sun rise each day
and sparkle on the waves

And later watch the sunset
draping soft sherbet colors across the sea

Or igniting the sky with flames
or sharing a singular flash of green

Here I am nothing. A speck
spotting a dolphin, then a whale, a flotilla of birds

All my troubles wash away
glittering into the sea

How can anything matter when here
in Carmel-by-the-Sea the world alone is immense

SANDRA BERRIS

Reprinted with permission from *Ash On Wind*, Muse Ink Press, 2017

Planning Department and Planning Commission Update

By Michael LePage

PLANNING COMMISSION CHAIRMAN

This past year has been a busy one for Carmel-by-the-Sea's Planning Building Department and Planning Commission. As of October, building permit activity has been 46% higher than it was for all of 2017. As a result, the Planning Commission's agendas have been consistently full and 2019 is shaping up to be more of the same. Here are some of the current and upcoming items the Department and the Planning Commission will be considering:

The City Council has authorized the Community Planning and Building Department to update both the Residential and Commercial Zoning Codes along with the Residential and Commercial Guidelines. The purpose of the review is to provide policy updates and amendments that better serve the community.

To meet this goal, the Planning Commission has formed three sub-committees, one focusing on residential issues and two on commercial issues. Two Planning Commissioners have been assigned to each sub-committee along with the Community Planning and Building Director,

Marc Wiener. During the course of the sub-committee meetings, stake holders will be invited to participate to provide expert information about certain subjects. There will also be a number of public workshops. The final subcommittee-recommended zoning amendments and policy changes will be presented to the Planning Commission for recommendations to be presented to the City Council. At all the workshops and public hearings, the public will have the opportunity to participate in the review process.

The first part of the process will focus on the residential zoning codes and guidelines. Some of the items to be reviewed are the basement bonus policy, property slope as it relates to floor area restrictions, detached parking structures, parking standards, trash enclosures and lighting standards. Volume standards will also be reviewed with a focus on how average grade calculations penalize existing residences. Better standards are to be developed for contemporary architecture and fire proof building materials for such finish items as siding and roofing.

The second part of this process will focus on the Commercial Zoning Codes and Commercial Guidelines. The review will be focused on the voting require-

ments for use permits, ways to encourage more affordable housing, restrictions on types of businesses such as art galleries, jewelry stores and health-massage spas, the wine tasting policy and the hotel cap. Other areas of study will be the downtown conservation district, historic zoning and the city historic register.

A project of particular interest coming before the Planning Commission this next year will be the possible reuse of the Christian Science Church property located on Lincoln and Monte Verde Streets. The owners are proposing to demolish the existing church and build a smaller church in its place. The freed-up land from the smaller church and parking areas being removed are proposed to be developed with multifamily housing. The property is currently zoned R-1 which doesn't allow multifamily housing.

As always, my fellow Planning Commissioners and myself value and depend on the public's input. I encourage citizens to attend the Planning Commission meetings and workshops.

If you have any questions regarding any projects or scheduled upcoming meetings please contact Carmel's Planning and Building Department. They have a great staff that is always there to help you. ■

Membership Month

As you may recall, January is the CRA Renewal month. We have a new membership perk for 2019! The CRA is working with local restaurants and retailers to develop a CRA Local Incentive program. The goal is to motivate our community to shop and eat locally, and when you do you will be recognized as a local and presented with either a discount or a freebie! The 2019 CRA Local Incentive card will be mailed shortly along with the membership renewal form. Make sure to renew your membership for 2019 to enjoy this and all the other benefits of being a member of the CRA!

Thank you very much for your membership renewal, donation and gifts of your time as well. We present many civic events and your help is certainly appreciated.

Kudos

We owe a huge debt of gratitude to our retiring chair of Dines Out!, Darlene Mosley, as well as to her very able assistant, husband Dave. Wonderful events over the past 5 years provided much enjoyment for us all. Our holiday gala was her “grand finale”; and Darlene and Dave even provided all of the terrific wine for the event! Thank you so much, Darlene and Dave! We now greet and welcome Sue and Fred Taylor, our incoming co-chairs of CRA Dines Out!, who are already starting to plan our events for 2019.

Nominations for CRA Board

Our bylaws have been amended to ease the process for general members to nominate. Now all CRA members may nominate candidates by sending a petition signed by only three members. The petition must be accompanied by a short paragraph focused on the person’s talents and interests in contributing to our Board.

A petition must be received by March 1, 2019. Please send to the nominating committee chair, Mary Condry at P. O. Box V, Carmel, CA 93921.

Tooting Their Horns for CRA

Reincarnated as the “Blues Brothers,” Roger Eddy on sax and Brian Stock



PHOTO: DALE BYRNE

on trumpet brought excitement to the CRA’s Halloween float. They were joined by new CRA members Carlene Malack, dressed as Olive Oil, Anthony Walker, dressed as Popeye and their children, Aden and Steely, as an ostrich and a soldier.

Fred Bologna and his committee of Dick Stiles, Ann and Bob Nelson and Michael LePage managed to turn the flat bed, loaned to us by Hacienda Hay and Feed, into a Halloween float, driven by Michael LePage. The Carmel Residents Association was pleased to contribute the only live entertainment to the parade and did this as a community service for the Villagers.

In Memoriam



Howard Brunn
Diane Hydorn

Thank You!!!!

Our Board owes a debt of gratitude to All Saints Episcopal Church for loaning us a conference room in which to hold our meetings. Thank you so very much, All Saints, for your generosity!

By Mary Condry



CRA Communications Team

Barbara Livingston, Mary Condry,
Tom Parks

Voice Editorial Board

Monterey Bay Design
Voice Design & Production
Website Design & Production

Margaret Byrne
Communications Director

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Place
Stamp
Here

CRA Board of Directors

Barbara Livingston, *President*

Dick Stiles, *Vice President*

Jon Wolfe, *Treasurer* | Karyl Hall, *Secretary*

MEMBERS

Lauren Banner, Janine Chicourrat, Mary Condry, Darlene Mosley,
Ann Nelson, Tom Parks, Ann Pendleton, Ken White

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 Carmel Mission volunteers who provide beans and rice to the farmworker camps in south Monterey County.

👍 **CHEERS** At last, Carmel has a new barbershop. Bixby Barber is ready with clippers and scissors in hand to welcome all to their chairs. They are waiting in the Court of the Fountain, Mission and 7th.

👍 **CHEERS** To those worthy November candidates who didn't make it this time around.

👍 **CHEERS** To all firefighters and first responders from all over the country who risk their health and lives to save our people and their homes. They are our heroes and always have been.

👎 **CHIDES** We wait. We wait. For word on the redesign of the Police Department. Even the garish orange netting is fading. Don't blame Carmel's finest, they're doing their usual great job. It's . . . well, what is IT?

👍 **CHEERS** To the winners in Carmel's November campaign. Congrats.

👍 **CHEERS** To Mayor Steve Dallas and his Council for the smooth ride down Ocean Avenue. First time repaved since the early 60s. No fellows, skate boarding not allowed.

👎 **CHIDES** In Hangzhou, China it's no longer safe or even legal to walk your dog between the hours of 7 a.m. and 7 p.m. Fines range from \$700 to \$1,400.

In Carmel it's illegal NOT to walk your dog between those hours. (With some exceptions.)



Above, your neighbors, the Carmel Residents Association (CRA) Board of Directors at their Dec. 3, 2018 meeting.

PHOTO: MARGARET BYRNE