

the VOICE

OF THE CARMEL RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION

CELEBRATING 32 YEARS OF COMMUNITY SERVICE

SEPTEMBER ♦ OCTOBER 2019

Paradise Found and Preserved

There is no Zip Line. And you won't have to pack a compass or a GPS device or even a few flares. Okay, maybe a pair of sturdy, comfortable shoes and a bottle of H₂O. But that's all. So, get set to enter a world many of us perhaps have heard of but never experienced. A world of wonder situated just beyond our back fence.

CRA members have on September 26 a marvelous opportunity to learn all about this wonder--The Mission Trail Nature Preserve.

On a mild, sunny July day *The Voice* was invited to hike the many trails within the Preserve. In under three hours we wondered at the soaring Monterey Pines, the Coast Live Oaks, Black Cottonwood, Mariposa Lily, the meadows, the creeks and streams, the ancient rock formations, the birdsong, and the blessed tranquility of the 34-acre parkland. Were we really in Carmel-by-the-Sea or its environs? Yes, but then we had been transported to a kind of paradise of beauty and splendor of another time, another place.

There is history to define the Preserve. It is presumed that The Ohlone Native Americans first inhabited the Preserve land. Following the Ohlones, Father Serra and the Franciscan missionaries arrived and grazed the land and began building the Mission. The Mission Trail may have been the early supply route between the Mission and Monterey as well as to the surrounding, developing area. Artists, writers and bohemians were attracted to the area as they have been throughout Carmel's history.

We started our trek at the Mountain View entrance, clearly marked as are all the trails within the Preserve, hence no worry of ever being lost. We paused for a few moments to delight in the Lester Roundtree Native Plant Garden, after which we moved on to the stately and empty Flanders Mansion overlooking a



Mission Trail Nature Preserve

sloping, graceful and natural meadow.

Not a sound of life as we know it in our towns and cities. We passed a runner or two on the trail as well as the ubiquitous "man and his dog" who (the dog) seemed to respect the stillness of place—good dog, good dog. Hiking is a bit of an overstatement in our journey. The allure of the place literally slowed our pace to a bucolic stroll. So much to see, to savor, to glory in.

Our destination was Rio Road, just steps from the Mission, and our guide was a beautifully detailed map indicating our route on the Serra Trail. Coming into the bright light at the end of our trail is a bit of a shock—we're back to civilization. Where we have been is now an unforgettable experience, one that is new and fresh and exhilarating. And—right in our own backyard.

Consulting ecologist, Nicole Nedeff, chosen by Friends of Mission Trail Nature Preserve for the September meeting, will cover a variety of subjects relevant to the Preserve. She will discuss the biological resources, acquisition history, management planning, challenges to preservation, and a vision for the future of the Preserve.

The Preserve is a treasure and one

that is open year-round to Carmelites and our visitors. This wonderment exists and is nurtured and protected by the City of Carmel-by-the-Sea and the Friends of Mission Trail Nature Preserve. It is a gift to our citizens, the region, the state, and to every person who cares about preserving and honoring the natural beauty of the world. ■

CRA Program

*The Mission Trail
Nature Preserve*

**Thursday, Sept. 26th
5:00 pm**

**Carpenter Hall
at Sunset Center**

Mission St. South of 8th Ave.

*Free and open to the public
Wine will be served*



Carmel — A Cool City?

When I bump into visitors downtown, I usually ask them what it is about Carmel that brings them here. Those from hot climates such as Texas and our own Central Valley invariably respond, “because it’s a cool city!”

But for how long?

Tuning into NPR (KAZU) the other morning, I happened on a news item of great interest in regard to this very matter. The speaker represented an organization called Cool Cities USA. (I may have misheard the title, as I was unable to find it on Google.)

The speaker talked about the problem of global warming and what cities can do to help ameliorate the serious effects of rising temperatures. One recommendation is to apply a special clear paint to streets, sidewalks, parking lots, driveways and roofs, to reflect the sun’s hot rays back into the atmosphere. But according to the news story, the primary way for cities



PHOTO: NIC COURY

wild storms. Pines can be vulnerable to high wind, do not provide a wide canopy and are prone to disease. It is time to research what or which city tree best meets the criterion of stable canopy cover for our Village. Clearly, Monterey Pines are not going to make it. To this end, Cambria, which has a very large Monterey Pine population, has created a special committee to address the issue of climate change on their trees. Carmel’s forestry



Coastal Live Oak

to cope with this problem is through the planting of trees, particularly those with wide spreading canopies. The report urged that the canopy trees be planted especially downtown, where the canopy can stretch over both the sidewalk and the street.

My staunch support for our iconic Monterey Pines has wavered in light of this information. And given Fire Chief Panholzer’s analysis, what Carmel has to fear the most of possible disasters is the

department and forest commissioners could benefit, perhaps, from speaking with Cambria officials.

On a larger scale, studies suggest that Russia, Canada, United States, Brazil, China, Africa and Australia have large expanses of land which could benefit from massive forestation efforts. How could this be done on such a huge scale? One possible way would be through the use of tree planting drones driven by

artificial intelligence. A tree bullet, which is composed of a bullet container, soil, nutrient-rich solution and a little plant, is fired into the ground precisely at the depth it needs to go, in the exact position it should grow. These drones can plant 100,000 trees a day; 1 billion trees a year. Technology is finally getting to the point where it is making a serious difference in this fight.

Technology is not the only way. Good old-fashioned volunteer efforts and willing hands can accomplish miracles. On July 30, CNN reported that over 350 million trees had been planted in Ethiopia in 12 hours, which officials say will be a world record. Volunteers ranged from school children to civil servants who were given the day off to help with the planting. This effort is part of the Green Legacy scheme where mass tree planting is taking place at 1,000 sites across the country.

So, will Carmel be a cool city in the future? Efforts by Friends of Carmel Forest, the Forest and Beach Commission and the City are now focusing on which trees are best suited and will thrive on our downtown streets. Choosing disease-resistant trees with wide canopy would certainly help diminish the threat of global warming on Carmel-by-the-Sea. ■

The CRA and the Carmel Chamber of Commerce will co-sponsor a lighting seminar on Thursday, September 12, at 6 pm in the Chapman Room at Sunset Center. Carmel shop owners and managers are invited to learn from lighting designer Meredith Nole on how to pleasantly illuminate any space. She will offer secrets for great lighting applications for retailers including choosing the right fixtures and bulbs, how to make your store windows POP, how you can minimize the cost and much more.

Wine and cheese will welcome attendees. The meeting is free and reservations are recommended.

Please email Barbara Livingston: carmellivingston@gmail.com or Erin Averill: development@carmelchamber.org.

Carmel Cruising

When we started this column a few months back we didn't know how it would work out. It seems that it has struck a chord and so we are continuing with the fun! With each column we become more convinced that people living in, or visiting Carmel-by-the-Sea, are really lucky to have so much to do in our own backyard! This issue we are going to explore some more great parts of the cruising lifestyle, the nightlife!

On a cruise ship people either eat at the main dining room, in their room, or at a specialty restaurant. And usually before or after that, you have different socializing options, including getting a libation at the bar, watching the piano entertainer or even going to a pre-dinner show. After dinner there is more of the same, maybe with some dancing options thrown in! On longer cruises we've found that guests tend to get into a routine and, in the process, meet people who become good friends. The same is true here in Carmel if you put on your "Carmel Cruising" idea cap! Here are some suggestions:

- Il Fornaio is a great place for locals to hang out. They have a great Happy Hour operating Monday thru Friday between 4:30 pm and 6:30 pm. You can get a glass of house wine for \$6, a full-sized pizza for \$10 and half price deals on several other appetizers when you sit at the bar. It's a fun and classy environment.
- If you have a spoiled pup (like a lot of Carmelites) you will enjoy "Yappy Hour" at the Cypress Inn. Good deals on drinks & appetizers Sunday – Thursday from 4:00 to 6:00 pm. They also offer live entertainment Thursday – Sunday typically starting between 6:00 pm and 7:00 pm.

- The Forge also has a great Happy Hour menu although you have to remember it is only offered inside so you'll have to leave your pooch at home!
- Vesuvio's is a great cruise ship happy hour – up on their rooftop deck you'll think you really are out at sea!

Join them Wednesday – Sunday from

Carmel-by-the-Sea Fairy Tale House Tour

In this issue we are excited to let you know that we have mastered the process of creating VoiceMap self-guided GPS tours and are proud to say we have two (2) "in the can" with others coming shortly. Last month's "Off the Beaten Path" walking tour is now available and this issue we are introducing the "Carmel-by-the-Sea Fairy Tale House Tour".



Storybook Cottage

4:00 to 6:00 pm for \$5 cocktails and ½ price bar menu.

- The quintessential cruise ship experience happens every night at the Mission Ranch starting at 9:00 pm. They offer a fun sing-along Piano Bar featuring either Gennady or Maddaline, both of whom are accomplished piano players. It's consistently a great way to cap off your evening.
- The list goes on and on with Cultura, La Playa, Anton & Michel, Carmel Bouchee, and many others having unique experiences for Carmel Cruisers. Get out there and have some fun!

We think you will enjoy them and even long-time Carmelites will learn a lot about our Village. While we have free extended versions on our blog that you can take on your phone or computer, the VoiceMap versions are a great way for you and your visiting friends and family members to explore our Village. ■

As we did with the VIP Program we now have a separate page for our growing library of tours.

Go to www.carmelresidents.org/hometown-tourist to get the instructions, put in your "ear buds" and get out and be a Hometown Tourist!

Kuster

The lights in the theater go dim, but not completely extinguished. Onto the stage walks the speaker, approaching the podium and microphone to a thunderous applause.

Edward Kuster, founder of the Theater of the Golden Bough, the Studio Theater of the Golden Bough, is to give



Edward Kuster

an autobiographical address. His comments are to focus on old Carmel, his early life in Indiana and then his years as a lawyer in Los Angeles, his decades doing live theater in San Francisco and in the Village, his travels to Europe. Sit back and listen to some of his comments. Ladies and Gentlemen of Carmel-by-the-Sea, here, in his own words, is Edward Kuster.

“I must start far back. I was born in Terre Haute, Indiana, in 1878. That year is a mere statistical figure, meaning little or nothing except in a frame of reference. Well then, I first saw the light of day just 13 years after the end of the Civil War. My father had been mustered out of the Union Army with the rank of Major. But he had not been a killer during the Rebellion—he had been a surgeon, saving lives, not destroying them. After the war he settled in Terre Haute, marrying my mother in 1876.”

“Well, we are now in Carmel, in 1920. Boardwalks on Ocean Avenue, the boards loose with rusty nails sticking up; unpaved rutty streets; no storm drains, so that the winter water charging down the side streets had cut deep gashes, making it hazardous to drive a car; there was a hand-pump fire-engine drawn along by men; P.G.&E gas had not yet been brought over the hill from Monterey; there was a single grocery, Schweningen’s; a small dry goods and notions store, Stella’s; there were some telephones, but the rates were high and a call to Monterey was a long-distance pay transaction.”

“The population of the whole area was about 800; there was no Carmel Woods settlement, no Hatton Fields; there were only three houses on the Point—Reamers, Van Riper and Jeffers. Sewers were yet to come--the sanitation was quite primitive. The place was beautiful in an unkempt way, but all in all, it was considerably down at heels.”

“Why did I choose such a place to start my work? The answer couldn’t be simpler: it was because the little Village was simply boiling over with theatre-mindedness.”

“Traditionally, Carmel has been a

“Why did I choose such a place to start my work? The answer couldn’t be simpler: it was because the little Village was simply boiling over with theatre-mindedness.”

town of civic dissent and controversy. I can’t remember a time when there wasn’t some sort of row on.”

“When I arrived there had just been an unusually violent Forest Theatre upheaval. I don’t remember what the issue was, except that it was one regarding

By Doug Schmitz



control, and dozens of people were actually not speaking to one another. I was urged by some not to assist Bert Heron with his intended production of “The Countess Cathleen”, as it was thought best, they said, to let the Forest Theatre commit a sort of suicide that summer so that a new organization could take over the following year. I declined to become party to any such dark design and Heron had a good show.”

“This was my first encounter with that curious illogical almost pathological tree-worship that still goes on here.”

“My friend Perry Newberry, arch-primitivist and principal opponent of the Golden Bough, was running true to form. He hated precision equipment and pre-arranged lighting charts. I have seen him, minutes before curtain-time, rushing about setting up bare lights and placing dish-pans back of them in lieu of reflectors.”

“On returning to Carmel early in 1940 I took over the Filmarte (cinema) and renamed it Golden Bough Playhouse. For nine popular and profitable years I operated it as a combination house, producing stage plays on Monday nights and showing quality pictures the rest of the week.”

“Now to conclude and offer some sort of summary: beginning soon after the end of World War II, the atmosphere in Carmel has substantially changed. Who shall say it is for the worse or for

the better? I know that we are no longer theater-minded to any marked extent, though there are certainly theaters aplenty and more coming.”

*My, oh my, what a show!
Thanks, Mr. Kuster. ■*

Lisa Johnson, She Who Cares

You've parked your car. You have a few errands to run. Then you meet a friend on the street and the two of you opt for a cup of coffee. Now you remember to pick up your cleaning. At last you return to your car.

Ah, there she is, the pretty blonde, and she's just ticketing the windshield, you've overstayed your two-hour limit. Hold on, that's Lisa Johnson. And she's been in Carmel Parking Enforcement for thirty years. But there's a far more interesting story to tell about Lisa. She's a prime mover and administrator for the Carmel Police Department's SENIORS HELPING SENIORS program. There's not a white chalk mark on your rear tire, and she's just driving around the corner. Let's see if she has a few moments for us.



Lisa Johnson

■ So, Lisa, you've been patrolling the streets of Carmel for a long time. What prompted you to choose this career?

I'm a Carmel native. I was working a retail job in town. Some police officers, regular customers, one day suggested that I might like to apply for work at the station. Short story short, I got the job. I worked various jobs around the station and then one day there came an opening in parking enforcement. I grabbed it. And

thirty-two years later I'm on my vehicle five days a week.

■ Nobody likes to find a parking ticket on their vehicle. What kinds of responses do you get from the public? Anger? Excuses? A Shrug? Our guess is that you've seen and heard it all.

Mostly the response is routine. For the most part people accept the ticket without comment. I issue many tickets to locals, some of the same folks day after day. Very few complaints. And a parking ticket is no surprise to the person who will eventually pay. Every driver knows that.

■ Let's talk about the SENIORS HELPING SENIORS PROGRAM. What inspired you to devote your time and energies to sign on to the program?

In 1987 one of our dispatchers suggested the program. She had a relative in Germany who was unwell and living alone—she had no one to give her a hand or communicate with her. And that gave birth to our current program to help our local seniors every day. I wanted to be part of that program. The people here at the station are so involved in the Seniors program, even to the point of personally contributing extra funds to keep the program alive. And we accept donations from our residents. Contributions are always welcome, just call me and we can talk about donations, needs, and names, phone numbers and addresses of those our locals think can benefit from our services.

■ Lisa, thank you. This brochure you've brought along today is so very helpful in explaining the program, we'd like to quote from it in order to make clear to our residents just what SENIORS HELPING SENIORS means to our Village people.

The Carmel Police Department acts as a switchboard to our seniors. A volunteer will telephone senior recipients to check on their safety and well-being—daily. Some volunteers will actually visit the seniors in their residences.

In addition to the calls, the program

By Tom Parks



provides a holiday luncheon, gifts, birthday greeting cards to let our seniors know we are thinking of them throughout the year.

The brochure also reaches out to the community in general. The existence of the Senior program is absolutely dependent on the generosity of our local residents.

■ Lisa, where can we contact you with questions, a desire to participate, or to donate to the program?

I'm here to listen to questions from residents or those in need, or local seniors for whom they believe may need assistance, and would like to share in the program in any way. My number is the Carmel Police Station number: 831-624-6403. Just ask for Lisa Johnson, Community Service Officer.

■ The CRA is grateful for your participation in serving our local seniors.

And now we know who that attractive blonde is, she who drives the blocks of our little Village with a smile on her face and a bank of white chalk in her hand. But more importantly, she's a Village treasure who cares mightily for our older population. ■

For more information about Carmel-by-the-Sea's

SENIORS HELPING SENIORS

Contact:

**LISA JOHNSON,
Community Service Officer**

**CARMEL POLICE STATION
(831) 624-6403**

Car Week?

AN EDITORIAL OPINION

They're everywhere. They sputter, they buck, they pass gas, and they're a nuisance to a good majority of residents. We're not talking about tourists, although really pressed there could be similarities.

No, it's the cars. For a full week we find them on our narrow streets, in our driveways and, for the most part, in our hair.

This past August the spiritual meeting of mechanized, ego-driven trophy vehicles invaded our little Village on the Pacific as never before in past years. But this time around proved to be especially worrisome,

not to mention noisy, pushy, and boozy. In fact, one could say the auto-enthusiasts seemed to have left the tops down on their vintage convertibles. Which begs the question, have we, the City government and residents, for too long indulged the "car week" event? Put to a vote after this year's fiasco, we wouldn't be the least surprised if major changes wouldn't be called for.

In short, it's time to rethink this yearly influx of automobiles to our serene, tranquil Village. Let's ask ourselves, do we want this annual gathering to continue? Do we accept the vehicles but in smaller numbers? Do we want just one day devoted to the Ocean Avenue displays after which the drivers quietly exit our town? If the answers to any of these questions are 'yes,' then parameters need to be assigned

and enforced. Make no mistake, this is a serious civic issue. It demands serious civic consideration.

The time has come. Let's hope enlightenment comes with it.

Tom Parks



Do You Live Downtown?

For a charming, short video entitled "I live downtown," featuring downtown residents, many of them our neighbors. It is a remarkable testament to the issue currently facing our city government, which is: should short-term rentals in the commercial district be eliminated in order to create housing for full-time residents, professionals and business people? The answer, we learn from this video, is a resounding YES! The film was produced by Carmel resident Chris Sanders. To view it go to: www.bit.ly/ilivedowntown.

City Council Meeting Aug. 6, 2019

The CRA Board of Directors instructed President Barbara Livingston to represent them on two important issues at the August City Council meeting.

The first item was whether to continue the Measure D tax at 1% or to increase it to 1.5%, and whether the duration of the tax rate should be 10 or 20 years. It is clear from the staff report that an infusion of money is needed to address our fiscal responsibilities. CRA argued for an increase of the tax rate to 1.5% for 20 years. This would bring \$90 million to the city coffers during that period of time.

The Council agreed, and instructed staff to move forward with preparations for the November 2020 ballot. Council also considered how the money should be used, and staff will return with ideas for their decision. There will be several more meetings on the subject.

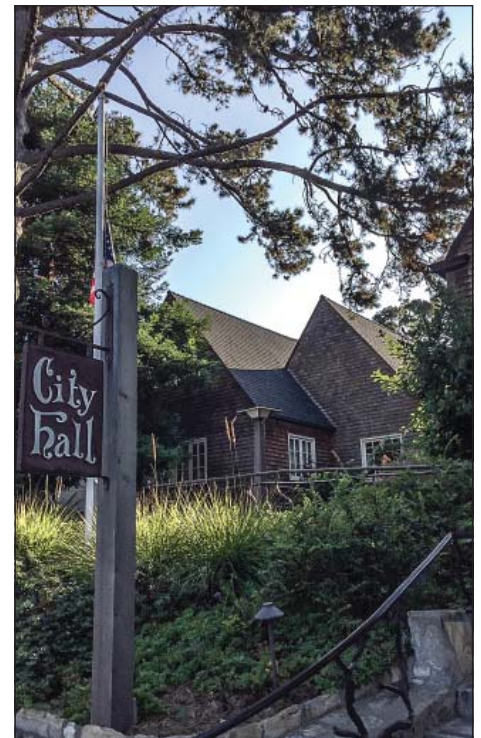
Item two was whether to adopt on 2nd reading, an ordinance to allow propane-only fires on the beach for one year. Because this decision would have resulted in an appeal to the Coastal Commission, the CRA argued the council should not adopt the ordinance on 2nd reading, and let the pilot program run its course until its end in 2020. At that time, the council will have to make a decision on the future of Carmel Beach fires, and take its case to the Coastal Commission. The CRA argued that two appearances before the Coastal Commission would be an undue burden on staff time and a tax-payer expense.

Ultimately the council agreed, and voted to not sign the ordinance, thus allowing the 12 wood fire canisters to remain until conclusion of the pilot program.

Public Records Act Requests

As a public agency, the City of Carmel-by-the-Sea adheres to the California Public Records Act (CPRA) which requires that governmental records be

disclosed to the public, upon request, unless there is a specific reason not to do so. This process, while necessary, requires significant City resources and can take nearly one full-time resource each month. We would like to remind our community of the cost of each and every request and to use this process judiciously. You can find a detailed discussion of CPRA's in the What's New section of our website at www.carmelresidents.org/whats-new.



City Hall

VIP Program Update

We now have 43 local restaurants, retailers, stores and merchants working with the CRA on our Village Incentive Program (VIP). One of the local favorites is the 20% off knife sharpening at Carmel Cutlery. There is nothing better than a nice sharp blade on your favorite knife and it's safer as well. Most kitchen knife accidents are attributed to a dull blade. So, grab your favorite knife (or knives!) and bring them into Carmel Cutlery located on Dolores a few stores North of Ocean Ave and receive 20% off this service. Remember to bring your VIP card with you and always ask, wherever you shop, eat or drink, if they accept the card! For the current list of offers go to: www.carmelresidents.org/vip.

July 4th Party Thank You's!

Ann Pendleton, Chair of CRA's Fresh Fruit Booth for the City's July 4th party at Devendorf Park reports that 900 people consumed 12 flats of strawberries, 20 lbs of almonds, 80 lbs of grapes, 24 bags of apple slices, 400 packs of raisins and 100s of dates. CRA was pleased to offer these fruit and nut baskets without charge to the holiday celebrants. Thank you, Tanimura & Antle, Capex, Trader Joe's, Raisin Board and Whole Foods. And thank you CRA volunteers Kathy Fredrickson, Barbara Hardy, Ovilee

Kennedy, Frankie Laney, Barbara and Dick Stiles, Kathleen and Barry Swift, and Maryellen Wilson.

CRA Dines Out!

Please join us on Wednesday, October 16th, 5:30 p.m. for a wonderful dinner at the iconic Village Corner Bistro. Our host, Ken Spilfogel, has crafted a spectacular menu and we hope you can join us for this special evening.

The night will begin with hors d'oeuvres to include local cheese, crackers and fruit, crispy artichokes and short rib sliders. You have a choice between Caesar salad or tomato bisque and your entree choices are shellfish risotto, Pacific seafood pasta (eastern clams and scallops, crab, shrimp, tomato, garlic-wine sauce), wood-fired roasted salmon served with risotto and vegetables, or prime New York steak served with mashed potatoes and roasted vegetables. A special dessert bar with the chef's selection will follow.



By Mary Condry

The Village Corner is located on the NE corner of Dolores and 6th. Our cost for this amazing evening of culinary delight is \$45.00 per person. Wine and beer at \$7.00 per glass, well drinks at \$10.00.

We expect this to be a very popular event so please reserve early by sending your check made out to CRA and include your choice of soup or salad and your entree selection. Mail your check to Sue Taylor, 225 Crossroads Blvd. #168, Carmel CA 93923. Reservations must be received by October 7th.

CRA Board Member Updates

Dick Stiles, after many years as our CRA Vice President will step down, and Fred Bologna will assume that position. Thank you, Dick, for your years of service—we are happy that you will remain on the Board.

CRA is pleased to announce that Dale Byrne has been added to our CRA Board roster to fill a vacant position. Welcome Dale!

CRA Dates to Remember

- September 21st (Saturday) -- Beach Clean-up. CRA members, family and friends are invited to help between 10 am and 12 noon. Please meet at the foot of Ocean Avenue and bring gloves.
- September 26th (Thursday) – CRA Program (see article on Page 1).
- October 16th (Wednesday) at 5:30 pm – CRA Dines Out! at the Village Corner (see article on this page).
- October 19th (Saturday) – Beach Clean-up (last CRA Beach Clean-up in 2019).
- October 26th (Saturday) -- Carmel's Halloween parade and 103rd birthday. Our CRA parade entry will be a gaily decorated float with live musicians and costumed celebrants.
- November -- Don't forget to VOTE!
- November 21st (Thursday) – CRA Program featuring Chip Rerig, City Administrator and Marc Wiener, Community Planning & Building Director.
- December 14th (Saturday) -- CRA annual Holiday Dinner at La Playa Hotel.

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

Dale Byrne

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Place
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Here

CRA Board of Directors

Barbara Livingston, *President*

Fred Bologna, *Vice President*

Tim Twomey, *Treasurer* | Darlene Mosley, *Secretary*


MEMBERS


Dale Byrne, Daniel Cardenas, Janine Chicourrat, Mary Condry,
Ann Nelson, Tom Parks, Ann Pendleton, Dick Stiles,
Ken White, Jon Wolfe


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.


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 the Carmel Planning Commission for unanimously voting to require the owner of three contiguous lots on Scenic Drive to revise and resubmit his development plan.


 **CHEERS** To Carmel Police Chief Paul Tomasi for taking a strong stand against Car Week participants who treat our Village like a race course.


 **CHIDES** To the Monterey County Board of Supervisors for voting 3/2 to allow Cal Am to proceed with its desalinization project work in Marina. The three "yea" supervisors do not even represent the Monterey Peninsula. We voted last November to conduct feasibility studies, but they are not yet completed.


 **CHEERS** To Stephanie Locke, Planning Commissioner and CRA member, for alerting the police to car burglars in her neighborhood. A reminder to all of us, if you see something – say something.


 **CHIDES** To Cantinetta Luca Restaurant for installing exterior holiday lights in August.


 **CHEERS** To the Carmel businesses and restaurants who honor the Carmel Residents Association VIP card which allows for discounts at their places of business.


 **CHIDES** To those Ocean Avenue merchants who stand at their entrances hustling their wares. Folks, whatever you may think, Carmel is not a carnival.


 **CHEERS** To the Planning Commission for its 3-1 vote to deny a use permit for the "bee products" store on Dolores to sell cosmetics using aggressive sales tactics.

 **CHEERS** To the City for the current street repair and resurfacing. May be a bit of inconvenience now, but what a pleasure to drive the Village in the near future.

 **CHEERS** To the Friends of Sunset for raising over \$450,000 for the benefit of Sunset Center. For 31 years they served theater goers tempting selections of wine, coffee, tea, cheese plates and desserts in the theater lobby. Chair Ken White and his loyal band must be applauded for their dedicated service to the community. They will be missed.

 **CHIDES** To our City Council for voting to spend \$189,000 on yet more tourism marketing. We are already advertised to the hilt! That money certainly could be put to better uses like improving the Scenic pathway.

 **CHEERS** To Meredith Nole for her design and to the city crews for their installation of median lighting on Ocean Avenue. It is elegant!

 **CHEERS** To the Dutch city of Amsterdam for stopping all tourism advertising in an effort to mitigate the effects of overtourism. Is Carmel listening?