

the VOICE

OF THE CARMEL RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION

CELEBRATING 34 YEARS OF COMMUNITY SERVICE

MARCH ♦ APRIL 2021

Carmelites - Get Up And Get Out!



It's been too long, this stay-at-home, no dining out, too much TV, mirror gazing for company. How about a change? It's possible and it costs nothing and it's a relief from what we've lived for a year—cabin fever or one might call it Carmel cottage confinement.

An astute CRA member wrote to us the other day with a list of what she considered the best of our Carmel Village—places to go, things to see, right here at home - all close by and all accessible by foot, auto or cycle. So, why not get out of the house and take a few hours of vacation viewing one of the most beautiful places in the country?

For instance, what are you doing on Thursday? That's Farmers Market Day. A delightful amalgam of kiosks filled with fresh seasonal produce, bakery sweets, preserves. And this is a place for meeting friends and neighbors. That is if you can recognize them wearing masks. If not, bump elbows anyway, you've made a new friend.

Now, it's no secret that there are plenty of art galleries in Carmel. At last count, 60. Not for everyone, but for the casual collector with a keen eye, there is plenty to consider. Stroll the streets and you're bound to find a gallery that satisfies your tastes and sensibilities. Pack a few bucks in your purse.

You've lived here for many years. Have you ever visited Mission Trails Park? If not, you're not a real Carmelite. This is a spectacular natural space. Nothing required for the trek but a good pair of walking shoes and a bottle of water. You can start at the end of Mountain View and hike down to Rio Road at the Mission. The experience is an adventure. The hiker is transported to another place, another time.

Want company? Get ready for an adventure with self-guided Carmel walking tours. Sign up online: carmelresidents.org/exploring-carmel. Where to go? Tor House, Ocean Avenue, Fairy Tale houses, Scenic Drive. And, as a special treat you can explore

every one of the 41 Carmel courtyards. When's the last time you ever thought about that they even existed?

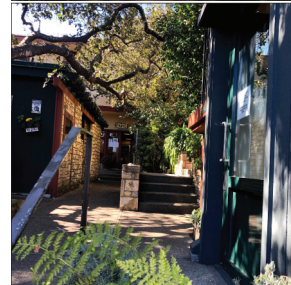
Of course, Carmel isn't Broadway or the West End, but we have a theater district in our Village. No, the show places are still dark but just for reference it might be interesting to take a look at some theatrical culture currently on hold. On Monte Verde there is one of California's most successful repertory theaters, the historic Golden Bough. Up the hill on Forest is the original Forest Theater, built soon after Carmel was founded in the last century and in continuous use as a community playhouse, one of just a few amphitheatres still in existence in the country. A walk up the hill is worth a glimpse of the grand stage. And then there is the Carl Cherry, a gallery with a little jewel of a theater.

If you're up for it and interested in California wines, local and Monterey County only, there are 18 wine tasting bars off Ocean Avenue. There is great interest in wine tasting these days; mind you, it might not be a bad idea to take your hike first and then head for the vino.

Let's say you've taken our advice and spent a few days exploring the Carmel that is available to us every day of the year. How about another adventure. Why not sign up for one

or more of the many volunteer opportunities orchestrated by the local organization, CarmelCares. Citizens, residents, people can make a difference in the life of our small Village. How to enhance and improve our assets through volunteerism is essential to maintain the beauty of Carmel. Our parks always need oversight as well as our paths, public grounds, landscaping, general maintenance in a time when the city's budget is severely stressed. To volunteer is a gift to ourselves. The gyms are closed, here's a chance to buff up.

2020 was one long year. Pandemic, isolation, and politics—too much of bad things. It's time to move, get up and get out. There is history and beauty just down the block. We'll meet you there. ■



Volunteers Out There?

When I first joined the CRA, I mailed in my membership fee in the provided envelope with boxes checked: Beach Clean Up, social events and party planning. It wasn't long before I received calls asking if I could pour wine at this event, set up chairs for that event and help decorate the CRA float for the Halloween Parade. As I became acquainted with other members, I found myself helping clean our beach and designing decorations for the Feast in the Forest. That's how easy it was, pre-COVID, to become a fully involved Carmel Residents Association member. It has been over a year since we last had an event for our members to meet and get to know one another, swap stories about what we love in our Village and argue about what our local government officials are doing wrong or right for Carmel-by-the-Sea.

Our board of directors is planning events that we hope will bring us together once again. We are mindful of concerns about all our safety and know full well that these events might have to be moved to different dates or postponed but we are striving to provide them for our members in 2021.

- May has traditionally been our annual CRA membership meeting complete with a family-oriented spaghetti feed. This year it will, most likely, be a virtual event with an email invitation to join us on the date still to be announced.
- September 18th we host our Feast in the Forest, held outside at the historic Indian Village in Pebble Beach.
- October 10th we welcome members and guests to the Carmel Woman's

Club for CRA's bi-annual presentation of the Carmel Citizen of the Year Award. A reception will follow the ceremony.



- December 3rd we are also excited to announce the return of our members-only CRA Christmas Party at La Playa Hotel.

With all these events planned, this a perfect opportunity for you to volunteer to help in some way. And, CRA is also looking for members interested in joining our board of directors. ■

Are there new or existing members out there willing to get involved?

CRA Hosts - My Grandfather, Sam Morse, with Charlie Osborne

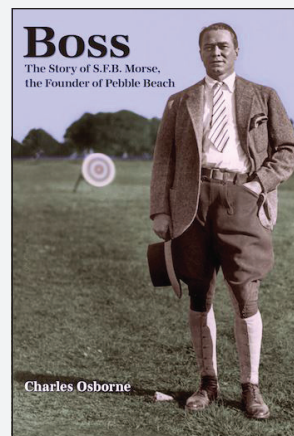
Mark your calendars for Thursday March 25th at 5 PM to join us in hearing from Charles Osborne who wrote "Boss: S.F.B. Morse, Founder of Pebble Beach". Charles, a businessman and native son, will share stories about his grandfather – who by all accounts was a renaissance man – conservationist, athlete, artist and entrepreneur. His imagination never stopped sparking and he made things happen through force, charm, determination, teamwork and grit. Hear more on how Sam Morse saved the Monterey Peninsula and see some of the privately held and rarely seen photographs Osborne collected during his years of in-depth research for his book.



Charles Osborne, Author

"Boss is the story of my grandfather, S.F.B. Morse, founder of Pebble Beach California, my personal hero and an icon of the good life in his time. He was a classic big fish in a small pond, but a beautiful pond, and he made that pond even more desirable. He dominated the Monterey Peninsula for fifty years and surprisingly, he was extremely well thought of by most everyone. His vision of land conservation was the basis for the creation of one of the most attractive pieces of real estate in the world." ~ Charles Osborne

On March 25th at 5PM, visit www.carmelresidents.org for a one click access to the Zoom session from your computer or mobile smart device. Or, you can go to www.zoom.com, enter meeting # 879 0715 9005 and provide the passcode "SamMorse". And for those unable to join us live, the next day, a YouTube video link will be available on the CRA home page and our CRA Facebook channel. ■



S.F.B. Morse



Pebble Beach Sign

Fire, Fire! Call Birney Adams ASAP...

On Thursday nights, when the Pacific fog had settled amongst the pines and cypress trees, the old rooftop siren on the fire house would blow, summoning the volunteers for training. After drills, the guys (there were no women) would sit around and chat about the “old” days and those early volunteers who had secured the siren and eventually found a home in 1937 for the equipment. And frequently the conversation would drift to comments about the first chief.

That would be Birney W. Adams. Adams was born in Ohio in 1884 and moved to Carmel in 1911. He had experience as a forest ranger and throughout his life would periodically return to forestry, in 1927 with the United States Forest Service in Tuolumne County, and in 1930 with the California State Board of Forestry.

With his ranger experience, one can only surmise Birney’s astonishment upon surveying the landscape and topography of Carmel when he first arrived. In those early years, the town had many vacant lands and thus weeds and forest, an insufficient water supply with poor pressure and no fire suppression operation.

Adams began discussing the potential fire situation with J.F. Devendorf of the Carmel Development Company and by early 1915 with a broader cast of Carmelites, including William Overstreet, owner-publisher of the recently founded *Carmel Pinecone*.

On 16 July 1915, with Overstreet serving as interim chairman, a group of eleven locals met and formed the Carmel Chemical Company, Carmel’s first fire department. The group elected Adams as the foreman and chief.

The suppression “equipment” in the company’s early days consisted of wet rugs and buckets. Adams, Curtis and A.P. Fraser, the town’s first mayor, went around the Village soliciting money so the company could buy a forty-gallon hand-pulled chemical wagon. The volunteer firefighters travelled to Hanson’s lumber yard in Monterey and purchased supplies to build

a portable structure to house the new equipment. The temporary fire house had to be constructed for frequent relocation since the company didn’t have either ownership or a lease for land. As one “old-timer” wrote in 1929 regarding the chemical wagon, “...eight fellas would get in front and pull it by the tongue. It was sure grand on a level road but when there was a fire at the foot of Ocean Avenue, and we had to go downhill (sic) the heavy old bunch of tin would get to going so dern (sic) fast we’d have to switch and hang on to it behind to keep it from running away from us.”

Adams resigned as chief in 1916. He returned as the assistant chief in 1920. In 1922, he led the effort to pass a bond measure for the acquisition of a motorized firefighting vehicle to replace the chemical



her home on Camino Real and Ninth. Within weeks after the Harrison fire, the new board majority changed its position and adopted Resolution 138 authorizing the purchase of “certain fire-fighting equipment.” Four months after Mrs. Harrison’s death, in February 1923, a motorized fire vehicle was delivered to Carmel.

By 1935, Adams, who also had a background in construction, had been named part-time building official for the city, and was promoted to the full-time position in July 1937. The organization he had founded in 1915, the chemical



Birney Adams - 3rd from the left.
“Vincent Torras Collection, Henry Meade Williams Local History Room, Harrison Memorial Library, Carmel, CA”

wagon, writing extensively as to why the equipment was needed. In the election, the bond received most of the votes but in toto did not breach the two-thirds approval threshold required for passage. A new majority was elected to the town council in the same election, all of whom had campaigned against the fire equipment bond. Six months later, in October, Ella Reid Harrison, benefactor of the Harrison Memorial Library, died in a house fire at

company, had in April 1917 renamed itself the Carmel Fire Department and in December 1917, asked the town trustees to accept the volunteer organization as a department of the municipality, an action finalized in 1922.

In July 1940, Birney Adams requested from the city council a leave of absence due to ill-health. He died at his home in January, 1941. Birney remained an active member of the fire department until the end. ■

The Artist Behind the Camera

Joan Brophy Thomas



By Tom Parks

The Winter sun was ablaze through the cozy dining room window as we were offered a chair opposite one of our favorite Carmel photographers, Joan Brophy Thomas. We were there to talk and to view an archive of some of what she considers her best work along with the stories behind the photos.

In every artist's life there is a beginning, perhaps a template of what a future might hold. Where to start?

Looking back, I realize now that I must have been three years old when a kind of passion presented itself, a gift. I was fascinated with images. I wanted to make pictures, and I wanted to capture those with a camera. And so, I borrowed my father's Brownie, a little box camera of the 30s and 40s that might have been in every American household. With no training, no real idea of what my subjects would be, I enlisted my sister as my fashion model—and away I shot, reel after reel of Kodak 127 film.

You went through grammar and high school and on to college. What happened after that, where did you take this gift, this passion that came at such a young age?

Well, yes, I graduated high school at 17 and wanted to attend college but that had to be postponed until later in my life. I found a job with an architectural firm where I was trained as a draftsman. (I guess we could call it a drafts-person today). And I loved it; I was in my element. It was then that I decided to become an architect.

But there was later a major transition in your life as an adult. You married.

I did and had my three children. My husband was a Marine and we moved

very often as all military families will attest to. The family settled on the Peninsula. My plan was to study architecture at San Jose State College—I so wanted a college education. But I had my three children to manage. I registered and then had to leave. My children had to have their mother at home when they returned from school; in my mind, they had to come first. And so, I entered MPC close to home with the decision to move from architecture to photography. A decision I will never regret. As it has turned out my career has melded both disciplines, photography, and architecture.

Are you also a portrait photographer?

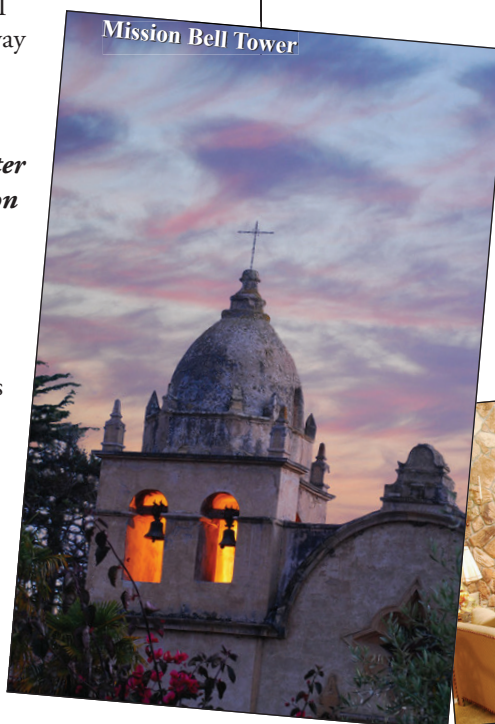
Interesting that you should ask. While in college many of my classmates and friends began to ask me to photograph them. I am completely self-taught. There is more to taking a photo than just the image. Lighting, both natural and studio lighting, is essential to the professional. I had to study, experiment, buy equipment, and finally master the various techniques. Finally, I could call myself a professional. I was suddenly in demand. I had important commissions, mainly and ironically, shooting large buildings, houses, businesses.

One day you had a surprise. A telephone call from a stranger.

Oh yes. And it was one of the great surprises of my career. It was a man's voice. He introduced himself and told me he had heard of my work and wondered if I could join him in a



Joan Brophy Thomas



lecture symposium he was to give in Pebble Beach. I was stunned. When I caught my breath I was fast with my answer: yes, yes, and thank you. I assisted him in that presentation. It was a success and I had met one of the world's most prominent and respected photographers. His name was Ansel Adams.

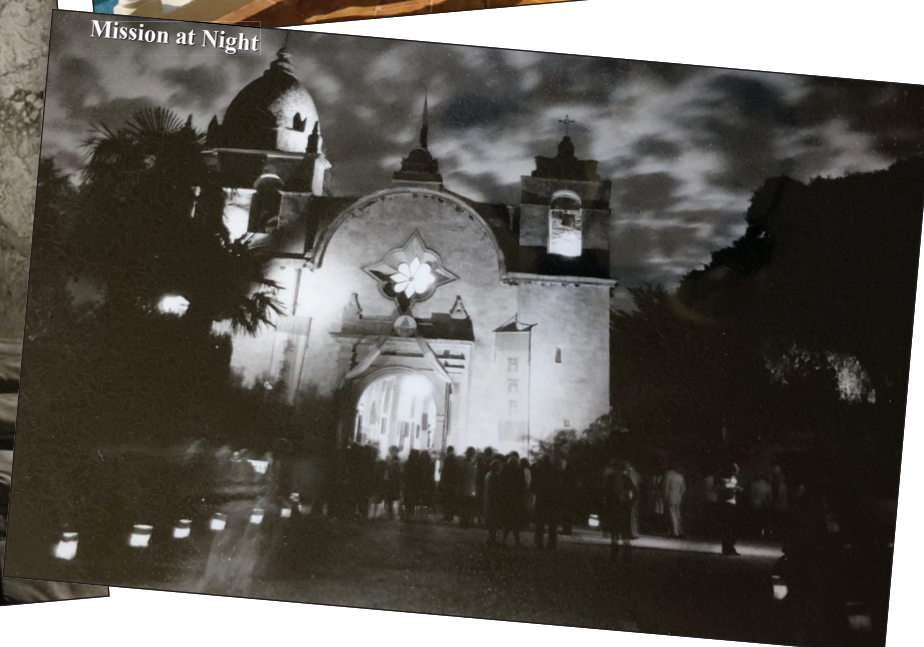
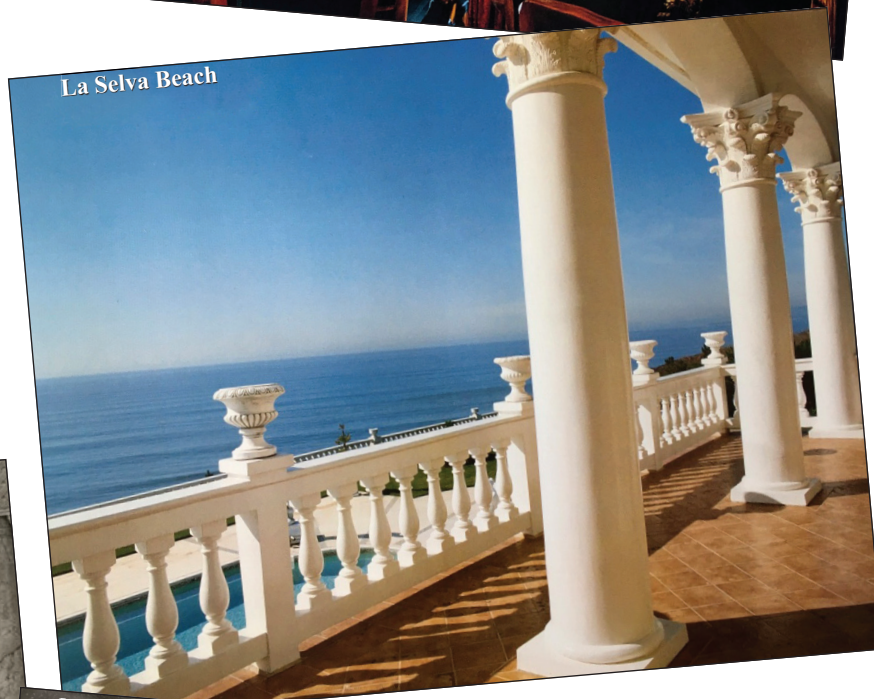
■ *There's another telephone story, what was that all about?*

Yes, there was another call, this time from the publishers of what we used to call the Telephone Book. I couldn't believe it. My photo was to appear on the cover of the latest edition. Wonderful! And so, every time I walked or drove by a telephone booth (gone now, all of them), I took pride in knowing that my photograph was on thousands and thousands of phone books all over the Peninsula. A grand feeling. And if that were not a rewarding rush, the manager of the Crossroads asked me to photograph the entire complex. The child's passion for making pictures had been realized. I was a photographer.

■ *What do you consider your very best work? Your favorites?*

Thank you for asking. A few of them appear right here thanks to *The Voice*.

The CRA thanks you, Joan Brophy Thomas, for taking this time with us. ■



Long-Term Village Outdoor Dining



There are residents' views on both sides of this hot topic. Many love the Parisian feel of outdoor dining, while watching the world go by. Others are not thrilled about the current look, sidewalk congestion and use of parking spaces. Under the COVID19 emergency authority, this temporary program provides locals and visitors now only outdoor access to sampling wine and dining out. As the pandemic concerns and restrictions ease, these businesses will

gradually serve customers indoors. So, what happens then? Should fees be applied? Should permanent use of the parking spaces be considered? Will water use permits be expanded for this added seating? This list goes on. There is a public City committee meeting frequently to work through the considerations. Join these sessions or send your comments to info@carmelresidents.org. CRA has two board members on this committee to bring your voice to this effort.



Did you know – that over 25 of our Village Restaurants, have always offered outdoor sit-down service?

Carmel's Farmers Market & CRA

You may have met CRA board members at the new Community Table February 25th at our Farmers Market on the 6th and Mission sides of Devendorf Park. This new table will be hosted by various community groups on rotation. CRA will be there again in the weeks to come – please stop by to pick up the CRA "Loving Carmel-by-the-Sea" reusable shopping bag, while supplies last.

Hearts of Carmel



Leadership Carmel is a professional development program working in conjunction with the Carmel Chamber of Commerce. This 2020/2021 class is working to create temporary outdoor heart displays, painted by local artists. These sturdy, 3D, weather and graffiti-proof hearts would be placed at multiple locations about town over the Summer months. This effort is going through multiple City departments for feasibility, refinements and approvals. Sponsors will be sought for each heart and a panel will select the artists from submitted applications. Once these heart displays end, they will be auctioned with the proceeds applied to the Carmel Woman's Club scholarship fund and the Carmel Chamber of Commerce. For your questions, see this group's Facebook page or email leadershipcarmel@gmail.com.

Monterey County Efforts Underway

The State of the City and County, hosted by the Carmel Chamber of Commerce, included Dave Potter, Chip Rerig and Mary Adams - our Monterey County District 5 Supervisor. Hear this recording at bit.ly/3pjv0uF.

The Feb 12th *Pine Cone* also highlighted Mary's material. Mary addressed the recovery efforts including COVID19 issues of health, budget impact, unemployment, food scarcity and the vaccination rollout. She also discussed affordable housing, recovery from our area's recent

fires, storms and flood as well as efforts to improve area transportation & traffic flow. (Remember that areas beyond our Village city limits are governed by Monterey County.) To connect on Mary's efforts, sign-up for her bi-monthly newsletter on her county web page.

Mayor Potter addressed his focus on a sound economic recovery. Plus, Dave briefly mentioned his early efforts on exploring a multiuse construction project (residential, business and 2 parking levels) in the north lot of the Sunset Center.

Carmel Beach Bagpiper

If you haven't already had the pleasure, drop by the Del Mar parking lot at the end of Ocean Avenue at sunset Thursdays through Sundays if weather allows. This means no pouring rain or freezing cold. Greg Freeman, a Carmel resident, is bringing this new tradition to our Village, in full Celtic garb. He envelops himself in the vibrations, music, breezes, sounds and views to entertain folks. Follow Greg on Facebook for scheduling updates. The discoveries of gems in our Village continue to amaze us all.



Citizen of the Year - New Date

Our biannual gift to the community has been pushed back to October this year in the hopes we can host this popular event in person at the Carmel Woman's Club as usual. So please mark your calendars for Sunday, October 10th at 3pm. It is always so enjoyable, with good snacks too! Join us in honoring a very special person.

Upcoming Programs

- March 25 – *My Grandfather, Sam Morse*, with Charlie Osborne
- September 23 – *Historic Hotel Del Monte and 17-Mile Drive*, with John Sanders
- November 18 – *The Fine Art of Fun* with Will Bullas

As the mid-year guidance allows, we look to hosting these programs in person. As always, we love to hear your thoughts. Please share them by emailing info@carmelresidents.org

Membership Renewals & Benefit

Kudos to all of you who have renewed your memberships or recently joined the CRA. You should have already received your 2021 Village Incentive Program (VIP) discount cards! Please don't forget that membership is open to all who consider our Village their own. You can also join or renew online through our website.

CRA Beach Clean Up and its 30th Anniversary

We begin early this year! Plus, since 1991, now for THIRTY YEARS, CRA has been hosting this community effort! Please join us on the third Saturday of each month at 9:00 am at the bottom of Ocean Avenue. We ask that all volunteers wear a mask, bring your gloves and we will provide the buckets. We finish at Noon and rain will cancel the event.

- | | |
|------------|----------------|
| » March 20 | » July 17 |
| » April 17 | » August 21 |
| » May 15 | » September 18 |
| » June 19 | » October 16 |

If you have questions, call our chair, Daniel Cardenas at (831) 620-2117. Thanks so much!

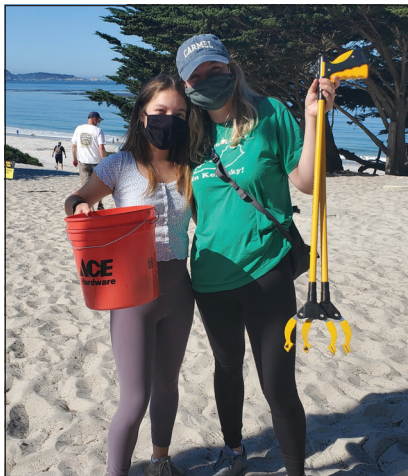
New Board Member

Graeme Robertson has been appointed to your CRA Board of Directors. He will serve the remaining two years of Barbara Livingston's term. Welcome Graeme! Visit the CRA web site for background on our board members.

Join in City Meetings



Our City of Carmel council, commissions and boards meet on a routine throughout the month. City council meets every first Tuesday of each month at 4:30 PM. You can join on the phone or video. The other City boards and commissions meet at least monthly. These teams look forward to having your voice heard on their issues, services and programs that are under consideration. Please visit ci.carmel.ca.us/meetings for how to join live or listen to the recordings after the meetings. Also your CRA website calendar provides relevant links to access meetings and events throughout the Carmel area.



My Heartfelt Thank You.

I, Mary Condry, wish to express tremendous gratitude to CRA members who donate and work to support our farm-workers and their families in the Salinas Valley. They truly need all the help we can provide every month! Reach out to me at carmelcondry@comcast.net if you'd like more information.

Memoriam

Senator Fred Farr
by Sam and Shary Farr

Nancie Sutton
by Merv Sutton

Bob Condry
by Kathy and Ron Fredrickson

Honorarium

Barbara Livingston
by Jaynie Moore

Barbara Livingston
by Michael Livingston and his wife Laurie Foster

Lifetime Member Recognition

The CRA Board of Directors wishes to acknowledge and thank the past year's new Lifetime members who contributed at least \$1,000. to support our endeavors. They are:

- Tim and Lynn Allen of Tim Allen Properties & Real Estate and CarmelGives
- Dale and Margaret Byrne of Carmel-Cares and CarmelGives

We also wish to thank Richard and Mimi Gunner, longtime Lifetime members and owners of the Pine Inn, who just donated an additional \$1,000!



Place
Stamp
Here

Post Office Box 13, Carmel-by-the-Sea, CA 93921
www.carmelresidents.org | info@carmelresidents.org
Tel. (831) 625-3408

CRA Board of Directors

Fred Bologna, President | **Daniel Cardenas, Vice President**

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

Mary Condry, at Large

MEMBERS

Janine Chicourrat, Frankie Laney, Ann Nelson, Tom Parks,
Ann Pendleton, Graeme Robertson, Nancy Twomey,
Ken White, Jon Wolfe

Barbara Livingston, Director Emeritus

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 👎

👎 **CHIDE** Sad that Highway 1 at Rat Creek has to close due to wash-out from the January 28th Storm.



👍 **CHEER** Esalen and north through Big Sur on Highway 1 is still very accessible from Carmel. Updates are available at bigsurcalifornia.org/highway_conditions.html.

👎 **CHIDE** The color-coded State of California COVID19 business services guidelines are decoded and available here bit.ly/3qpFZEb. As of this printing, Monterey County is "purple" but crossing fingers, will move into "red" (better than purple) classification shortly. Such confusion!

👍 **CHEER** Too slow, but there is increasing access to COVID19 vaccinations in Monterey County. Signup for notifications at mcvaccinate.com.

👍 **CHEER** City of Carmel FY20/21 budget is sound.

👍 **CHEER** A huge thanks to the Carmel Emergency Response Team (CERT) for their volunteer efforts during the January storm; and the list goes on and on.



👍 **CHEER** Reminder: Carmel Food Waste composting is *real*. Yellow disposal bins are available at Carmel City Hall, Vista Lobos and the Thursday weekly Carmel Farmers Market.

👎 **CHIDE** Sad to learn that the empty "pit" at 5th & Dolores continues to cause structural damage to surrounding buildings. Hope this is addressed soon.



👍 **CHEER** Finally, our Carmel Unified School District has their phased reopening, planned and underway.

CRA Communications

Tom Parks, Mary Condry,
Nancy Twomey
Voice Editorial Team

Monterey Bay Design
Voice Design & Production