

the VOICE

OF THE CARMEL RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION

CELEBRATING 34 YEARS OF COMMUNITY SERVICE

SEPTEMBER ♦ OCTOBER 2021

Alert! CRA Members — What's On Your Mind?

Good news is always welcome. And this past month or so we at CRA have had our share of it. We're speaking of a survey mailed and emailed to our membership. We got bold, that is we asked the tough questions. In essence we asked members: what do you think of your organization? How we doin'? Short

figure in mind, we moved to individual comments on various questions asked in the survey.

One member commented that zoom was a good opportunity to keep abreast of local and educational programs. She watched the Zoom memorial to Barbara Livingston and found it touching and positive.

The Candidates Forum was a favorite of many—again, and let's hope for the last time—a zoom program. The Carpenter Hall meetings bring many members and citizens together one person opined, his favorite meeting was that which was devoted to the trees of the forest.

One very satisfied member said this: "(I) have enjoyed all past in-person programs. Future topics should include a re-look at the City's General Plan. The CRA should look at it closely at first and then go before

the City Council to suggest updates or changes." Another member thanked CRA for "all the fun" and the work that goes into creating our enjoyment.

Most respondents cited our programs and activities. There appears to be no favorites, but we found enthusiastic endorsements for all or most of our planned annual meetings and activities. The Holiday Party at La Playa (December 3) was high on the list. Followed by the Feast in the Forest (September 11), the Can-

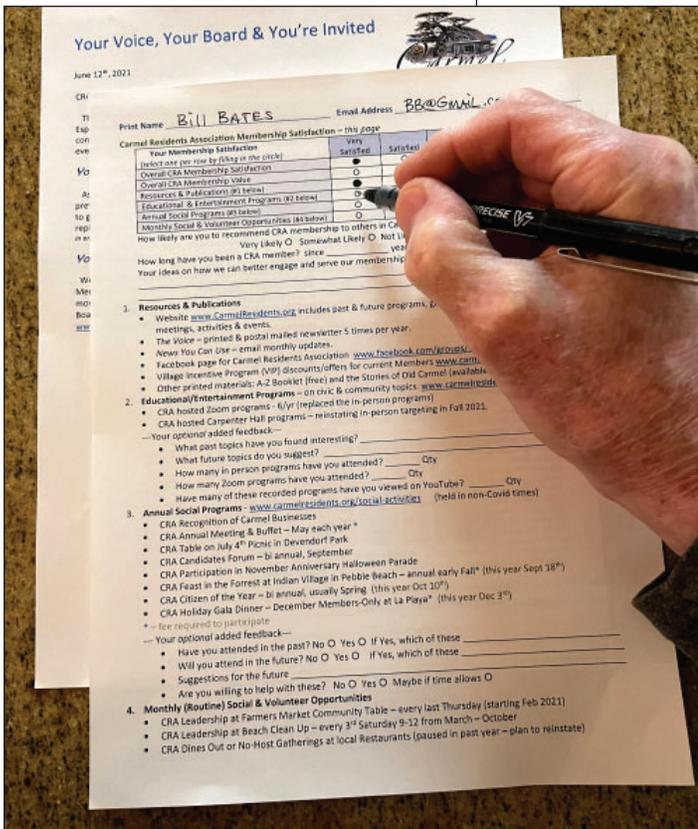
didate's Forum, the Beach Cleanup (Yes, some folks have a good time with pail and shovel), and Citizen of the Year (October 10). Some members have missed meeting friends at no-host gathering evenings—when the fog of last year clears, we could reinvent that outing.

In the category of 'neutral'—that is members who expressed no preferences or had marked no opinion in the survey—we wondered what that non-response meant to signify. No opinion, CRA is just OK, don't want to take the time to respond, too busy, they don't care what I think? But we do. Members' feedback is important to us. We look forward to hearing from you. Our address and phone number are on the back of this newspaper. You care enough to be a member, let us know what's on your mind. So, what does the above tell us? In truth, the CRA is matching its mission.

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.

Can we do better? Of course we can. Even with this strong support from our membership, there were great recommendations for the future too. Items including more civic topics in our Carpenter Hall programs and hosting these on weekends. Many expressed their concerns about wildfires, our General Plan, and caution in changes to our commercial core.

We have an energetic, dedicated board of directors and every director has a job assignment. After deliberation we vote on an issue by consensus. Are there differences in opinion? Yes. But the final vote is in favor of what is best for the citizens of this place of beauty and how we can sustain the historical traditions of this Village in the forest by the sea. ■



of sending up fireworks in celebration, we received that very good news of approval with renewed energy and dedication to the cause: after over thirty years the CRA remains the voice of the citizens of Carmel-by-the-Sea.

Here are some numbers that may interest our citizen followers. Not only numbers but comments from members. For instance, 91% tallied declared that they were either 'very satisfied' or 'satisfied' with the work of CRA. With that

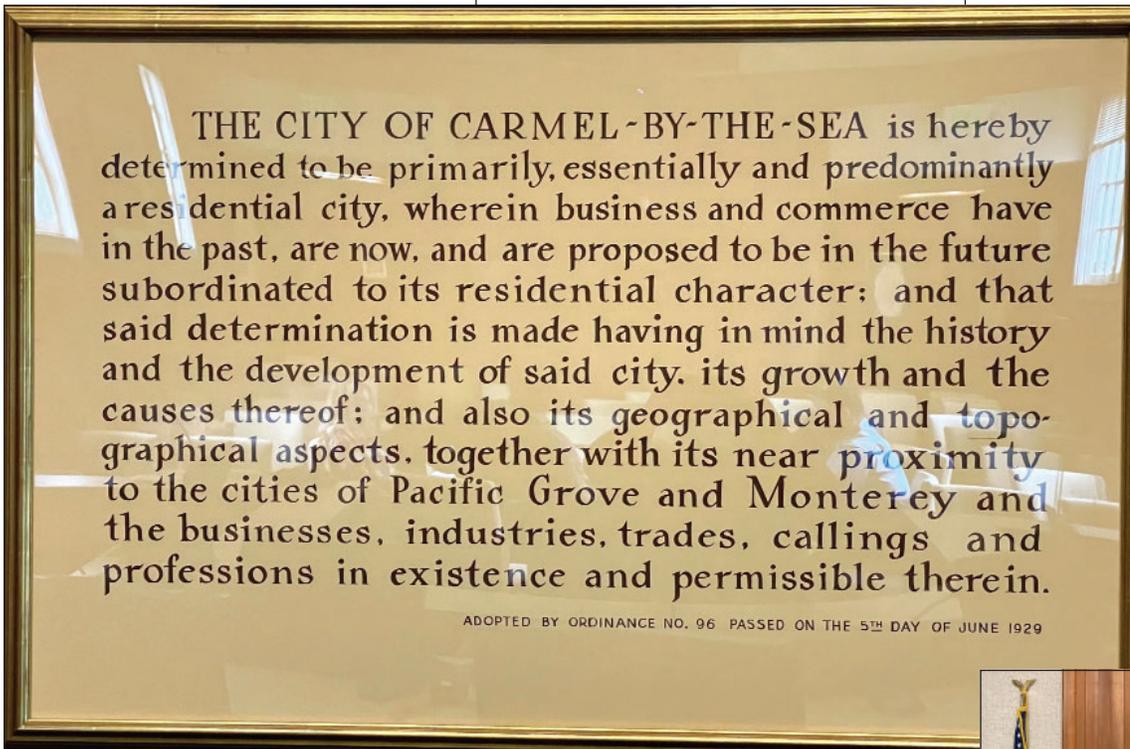
Carmel-by-the-Sea is Primarily a Residential City

How often have our members or our citizens in general (last count we were a Village of just 4,023) visited City Hall? Even if we just stopped by to take care of business in the lobby, has it ever occurred to us to walk into the chambers? A former church, built by M.J. Murphy, it makes an excellent hall for doing the business of governing. But take a minute

a **responsibility to protect** and care for what we hold dear. Naming just a few of these include our trees, our Mission Trail Nature Preserve, our parks, our beach, our Scenic pathway...and our way of life. Let's also call out our critical role in protecting our meandering streets, historic structures and remembering what brought residents here in the first place.

However, we do share wanting to retain what makes Carmel-by-the-Sea special and unique...where our health, safety and wellbeing are not compromised. Residents, businesses, and visitors come here and stay here for these special and unique characteristics that must be well maintained, without decay.

The past 18 months (and hopefully not a lot more) have left many feeling voiceless, or less vocal than has proven to be in our history. We must **reenergize and push** our City Council, civic boards, and commissions to address our **passion for what makes Carmel unique**, while exploring proposed changes and their pros and cons carefully. Some are concerned that our local businesses are today's louder voice in decisions being made in town. It's important to remember that businesses benefit from what makes Carmel unique



before leaving. Look to the back wall behind Council tables. It doesn't take much time to read it.

"The City of Carmel-by-the-Sea is hereby determined to be primarily, essentially and predominantly a residential city...." Check out this full Ordinance # 96 on the City website.

We all **love our Village**, its people, history, places, activities, nature, architecture and yes, the diversity that comes to our town as visitors from both near and far. And we genuinely enjoy the amazing talent and services showcased by and in our local artists, performers, restaurateurs, innkeepers, and shopkeepers. All of these sustain and attract residents, businesses, and visitors to our amazing town.

As residents, we are blessed. However, especially as residents, we all have

Carmel's history is important.

This said, we are not standing still nor are we only looking back. **Change happens**, some with and without good oversight. Changes of many elements in our town require more critical thought, consideration, planning and alignment – to save and enrich them for generations to come.

As residents, we benefit how the city delivers services coming from the tax contributions that we pay as consumers and property owners, and the taxes generated from visitors' transactions too. And as residents, we don't all share the same views, or similarly rank the issues or challenges that our Village faces. Indeed, we often agree to disagree on items such as beach fires, parklets, postal services, parking, the business mix, architectural diversity...etc.



too – just as residents do. So together, we can care for our town and keep what is important to keep. Let's make it so.

Reminder – we must expand our residential efforts and raise our residential voices on topics that make this an amazing "Village in the forest by the sea" for generations to come. This is what the CRA and our mission reflects, and it must be alive and well. And let's have fun and enjoy one another on this beautiful and amazing path of shaping our future. ■

The Dunes, The Park, The History

George J. Peirce is long forgotten. No surprise, he wasn't acknowledged one hundred years ago for his recommendation that initiated a campaign to add a civic asset along our shoreline. Peirce owned a summertime home on Camino Real, one of the "Professors' Row" houses. He held an M.A. and a doctorate in botany and had been hired at Stanford in 1897.

During his visitation to his local house in the summer of 1921, Peirce observed the physical growth and irreversible changes in Carmel and the resulting impacts upon the sand dunes. Returning to Stanford in July, he wrote a letter which began "The use of the great dunes at Carmel for streets, gardens and houses has disturbed me increasingly, for it is well known that the cutting of the dunes and the removal of the vegetation which holds the sands of the dunes together has resulted in most instances in damage, not only serious but continuing." He referenced Cleland's 1916 book "Geography, Physical and Historical" which identified the importance of dunes and provided examples from Denmark, France, Central Asia and Lake Michigan. "The only salvation that I can see for Carmel is in public ownership of the dunes by the community..." Peirce concluded.

Following the distribution of Peirce's correspondence, a local group met at the studio of M. DeNeale Morgan, deciding the trio of Fred Bechdolt, Tal Josselyn and Morgan should call upon the town patriarch, J. F. Devendorf, at his home and discuss saving the dunes. The owner offered to sell ten acres of dunes for \$15,000 and "toss in" Block 69 downtown, then a tar weed patch but today known as Devendorf Park. News stories read "It is estimated the lands involved in this transaction are easily worth \$50,000, so that the price asked by the present owners is a most liberal one." A "Save the Dunes" campaign soon began with residents approaching the Board of Trustees (city council) urging a municipal acquisition. In 1921, Carmel's municipal budget was \$7000. The only way to get the \$15,000 was for the Board to call a special election for the Village's first bond measure since incorpo-

ration as a city just five years earlier. On October 4, Resolution Number 92 was unanimously approved by the Trustees, scheduling an election for November 22. The resolution specified "that the public interest and necessity of said city demands the acquisition..." The language of the resolution and the subsequent ballot description restricted the use of the lands to "public park and playground purposes" only.

This protective clause became important in 1923 when some residents sought to place the Harrison Memorial Library on Block 69 and in later years when the park property was targeted for various civic center buildings.

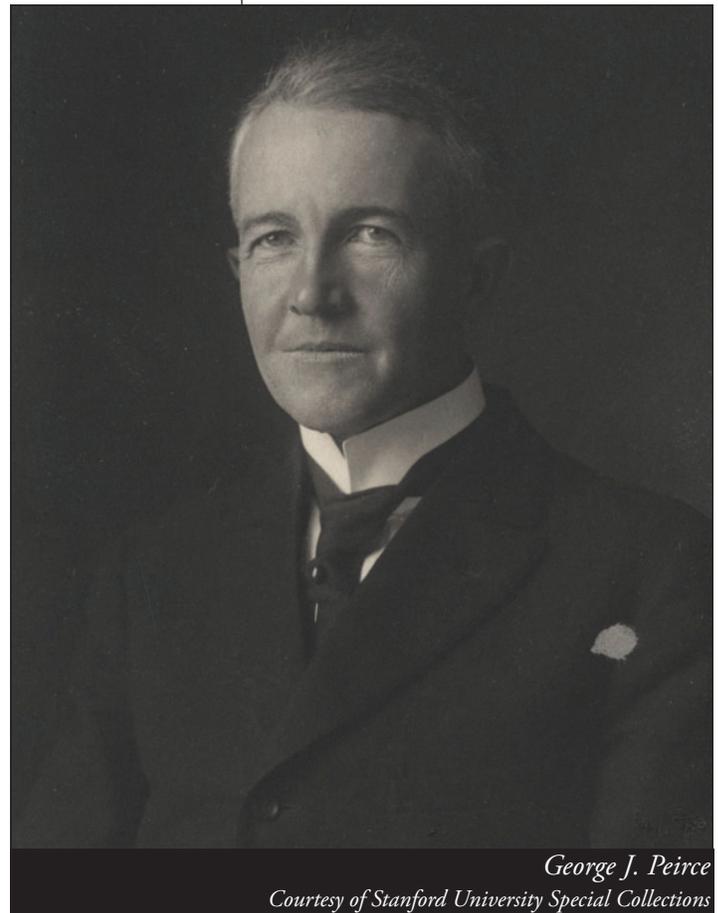
The week before the vote, the *Pine Cone* endorsed the measure, editor William Overstreet writing that a municipal acquisition would assure public ownership "for all time" and the purchase would preserve Carmel's "beautiful waterfront." The editorial concluded "it will mean that this property will not be converted inevitably into a cheap imitation of Coney Island, as has already happened to many of the seaside resorts of Southern and Northern California."

The measure needed a 2/3 affirmative vote. News reports of Election Day told of "keen and widespread" interest in the bond measure and balloting "was lively." By noon, seventy-five voters had rendered their decisions. When the ballots were counted that Tuesday evening, almost eighty percent of the voters had marked "yes" providing a landslide 187-41 approval result.



Within a week, the Trustees met and ratified the election results. Devendorf signed off on the sale transaction on Valentine's Day 1922, and the deed was recorded on February 27.

Carmel's public lands can be linked



with specific persons or families who played key roles in the preservation or development or stewardship of our civic assets. Devendorf and the Carmel Development Company transferred the title of Carmel Beach to the City; Mattie Hopper and Clara Kellogg were the proponents for the evolution of Block 69 into a public park; the Doolittle Family is long associated with the Mission Trail Nature Preserve. Yet no one remembers or speaks of the monumental contribution George J. Peirce made toward the preservation of Carmel's coastal dunes a century ago this summer. ■

A Visit With The Artist At Home Belinda Vidor

Another overcast day, not surprising for Summertime in Carmel. And yet it seems remarkably bright in this huge room with two identical skylights warming a Monday morning in Belinda Vidor's all-purpose studio, living room, dining room. How do we know this generous space is an artist's workplace? Well, the evidence is not only mounted on the easel, but the floor is covered with paint spatter.



Belinda Vidor

Your humble reporter views the scene as a kind of Cezanne still life. The artist is Belinda Vidor Holliday, she paints as Belinda Vidor, her name at birth. Her late husband of many years, JS Holliday, was the much admired California historian.

Ms. Vidor invited us into her world with a smile and a somewhat shy demeanor. Curious, since she has such a long and active history in our Village. She's a past president of the Carmel Art Association; she's been a mentor to many young beginners and seasoned artists whom she invites to paint with her and at that time to critique their work.

Our work for today's visit is to talk about her creative life and how she chose to live and make art in this iconic Village.

■ *When did you come to live in Carmel?*

It was in the late sixties as I recall. I was living with my family in Modesto. I had known Carmel for many years and first visited here as a young woman. I had a business in Modesto but arranged to divide my time—weekends there and here. The time came and it didn't take long for me to realize that this is the place where I belong. As you can imagine, I've never regretted it.

■ *How did you find this wonderful house?*

I'm a walker. One weekend when I was in town I came upon this very house. I had purchased a small house North of the Village but I couldn't seem to get this house off my mind. And so, I continued walking by and wishing. Later I discovered the house was for sale. And I just knew that this place was for me. I sent a letter to the owner. We talked, I cobbled

enough money together to make an offer and it worked. The house was mine and I knew I was at last home, just where I wanted to be. And as you can see, I'm still here.

■ *When did you begin to paint?*

I've been drawing since childhood. I used to draw for my mother's friends. They must have thought I was pretty good because they wanted to buy little Belinda's sketches. I think it was in the fifties when I made the decision to really paint—that is with easels, paints, canvases, and determination. I attended many art classes and



I continued to study for many years. I saw what other, better known, professional painters were doing, and I aimed for my own success. And so sixty years on I can say that "I paint."

■ *You work in different styles. What does that have to say about Belinda Vidor, artist?*

Different styles or genre or mode, yes. I've spent many a year on many ocean rocks, valley views, forest hilltops painting in the Plein Aire form which I have always loved. But then there are the contented days laying out still life's. And I've often worked with models, the human body. Later in my life I realized that I needed to investigate another form—abstract art. Very challenging as well as intriguing and I moved into that special genre with, in my own opinion, some success.

■ *What inspires you to actually begin a painting?*

Hard to say. Maybe a dream, a passing image. It's illusive. I can't say. I suppose much of the inspiration comes in front of the canvas. Is there something subliminal behind an idea? I don't know.

■ *What are you currently working on?*

Really abstract views. Mostly nature and mostly flowers. I'm using a technique which produces a kind of 3D background, depth really, onto which I paint a floral—flower(s).

■ *Your life as an artist, what has it meant to you?*

Many things of pleasure, of course. I believe that there is nothing one can do in life that is as exciting and meaningful as the making of art. The truth is that all art is not artistic. For me, art is my very reason for being. I could quote the French here, but you know what I mean. ■

You Won't Want To Miss It!

Saturday September 11th from 5:00-9:00 PM – We Hope You're Joining Us

A NIGHT IN SPAIN

(aka Feast in the Forest at Indian Village in Pebble Beach)

This (usually) annual CRA membership tradition in our great outdoors is being readied for your enjoyment. The deadline to confirm you and your guest's registration with the payment to join in the fun was August 27th when we finalized our gathering details.

Fred Bologna, our CRA President, is hosting a great late summer eve for our members and your guests. With its Spanish flare...this gathering will deliver everyone great pael-las, tapas and sweets served with many beverage options including sangria! Check out the details posted on our website at CarmelResidents.org.



Sunday October 10th from 3:00-5:00 PM – Come Celebrate our Awardee!

Citizen of the Year

Open to the public – Join Us at Carmel Woman's Club in October. The amazing awardee will be announced 10 days before we gather. So mark your calendars...it might be you!

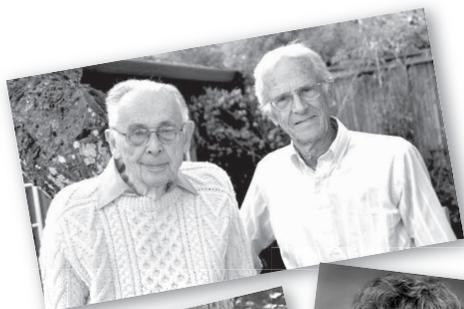


Beginning in 1980's, and now in every second year, CRA honors a prominent Carmel person by naming him or her Citizen of the Year. Candidates have, through their service, enhanced the lives of citizens of Carmel-by-the-Sea.

Our mid-afternoon ceremony includes local & regional leaders – providing additional recognition and appreciation for our awardee – along with munchies and a toastable beverage provided by local businesses.

This year's honoree will join a long list of distinguished citizens recognized for their efforts on behalf of our city. These include: Linda Anderson, Clayton Anderson, Noel Van Bibber, Melanie Billig, Jack Billwiller, Steve Brooks, Mike Brown, Greg D'Ambrosio, Olof Dahlstrand, Nancy & Bill Doolittle, Richard Flower, John Hicks, J.S. "Jim" Holliday, Wayne Kelley, Bob Kohn, Frankie Laney, Barbara Livingston, Skip Lloyd, Noel Mapstead, Roberta & Monte Miller, Enid Sales, Joyce Stevens, Merv Sutton, Roy Thomas, Charlotte Townsend, Fran & Alex Vardamis, Jean White, Ken White, and Jim Wright.

When spouses are listed separately – recipients were awarded in a separate year.



Parenting in Carmel in Covid Times

As grateful Carmel residents, we are honored with great families and schools that nurture the next generation residents. Just one example is the family of Roeya Banuazizi and Cory Schmidt with their two sons. As lovers of Carmel, homeowners for some time, and with well-established careers, they followed their dream to finally settle in their Carmel home when their boys were 1 and the other just 2 months brand new.

Both with professions in Theatrical Entertainment, this draws one of them to one coast or the other, and a rotation on who's full-time parenting. Their dynamic lifestyle has enriched their life and overall family adaptability. Then, in comes COVID making the San Francisco matinee of Hamilton on March 11th it's last (until reopening in August 2021) and school here (with both kids then in Carmel River School) called to a halt. Full Stop!

This family has been blessed with their parents close by and a home in a neighborhood with 10 other families with children of various ages whose parents share reinforcement of safety rules. So when "recess" was called or tensions rose, the boys would be nudged to go run, pogo or bike ride. Cory built school desk areas for the boys, and the kids helped plant a new vegetable and flower garden and new outdoor patio areas all extended their home space. Their home-schooling weekdays often began



Boys at the beach



School desks - built by Dad



Boys' flower garden

with PE from 6:30 to 8AM on Carmel Beach, then a drive by their school and back to those home desks with Zoom. As parents, they fully engaged with the school teachers and were so very thankful for their pointers and guidance. Of course, the boys missed their friends in-person. It's not

By Nancy Twomey



the same as Zoom video moments. And they missed their bus rides too.

Looking on to school reconvening, now with one in 5th at River School and the other in 6th at Carmel Middle School, they are looking forward to vaccination approval for kids under 12...knowing

the absolute priority is on their health, safety and wellbeing. They hope that all is green-lit for in person school with masks; and if a hybrid

model is needed, they will embrace it and know the drill.

One of Roeya's many favorite quotes: "We are all building the plane as we fly it." That so fits this last year and a half. Embrace the change in this once-in-a-lifetime experience and run with it. ■

Results Are In - Outdoor Seating

Many voices were tallied – 1391 in all, of which 53%, or 740 were tagged as the combined full (500) and part-time (240) Residents. All responders don't agree, but as you've seen in Chip's Friday Letter, the general results showed support for a permanent outdoor seating in public space program for Carmel. Many still believe the survey options are hard to envision or may be too limited – not yet considering more possibilities of closing streets or block redesigns. All options and implications are early and will receive more planning and

public comment. Next steps are anticipated in September or October meetings but as of now are not yet scheduled.

However, the current emergency outdoor seating program was voted by City Council to end for Restaurants on Sept 12th. This end date aligns to 90 days after the lifted health restrictions and supports the increased business from our summer visitors. This temporary offering does not align with our General Plan and does not address parking and safety concerns. Once again, remember many Carmel restaurants have had outdoor seating options in private space for some time. ■

Your Tax \$'s at Work

The City Fiscal 2021/2022 Budget is complete – with a half-year check point in the plan. Thanks again to the Council and all the city staff for their efforts to invest wisely on our behalf. In this approval process, your CRA Board stressed the

critical need to allocate increased public area maintenance dollars not dependent heavily on volunteer resources. This outreach, covered in the June 11th Pine Cone, produced a positive result benefiting us all. And note: the first round of Recovery Act \$'s are in the bank but are not yet applied to our fiscal budget – with the recommendation and decisions to come shortly. ■

Around Town & More – Monterey Jazz Festival Sept 24-26, Poodle Day Oct 2, Sand Castle Contest Oct 2, Bach Festival Oct 23-Nov 5, Homecrafters Marketplace Nov 20 and more! Enjoy

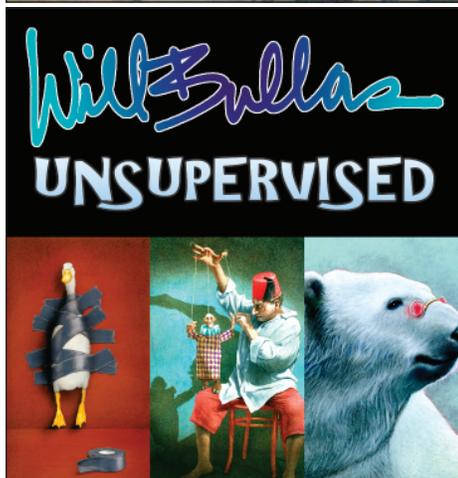
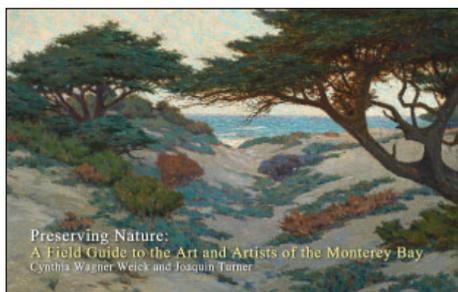
MARY'S CRA Corner

Floating Along...

We are looking forward once again to the City birthday/Halloween parade and our float going down Ocean Avenue! Do note that this community event is on a Sunday this year, October 31st.

Our Fall Programs

We once again will be presenting our community meetings at Carpenter Hall IN PERSON....yea! On Thursday, September 23rd at 5:00pm Cynthia Wagner Weick and Joaquin Turner will help us celebrate our local nature. The title of their program is: "Experience Monterey Bay through the eyes of early California Artists."



Also, you won't want to miss our Tuesday, November 9th presentation by another of our favorite local artists, Will Bullas. He will provide lots of art and laughs!

CRA Contributes

Please know that all during the pandemic we have continued to support very deserving causes: programs offered for us by the City, the Food Bank for Monterey County, Carmel High School scholarship and sober grad night programs, Music in the Schools, Carmel Emergency Response Team, and others.

Host Our No-Host?

Popular in the CRA survey, We would love to resume our no-host get togethers at local restaurants. Will one of you lead these?

Shining Beach

Daniel Cardenas continues to host our monthly Beach Clean Ups! Between 25 and 40 folks have come to help all summer. Please come to join the fun at our last two this year on September 18 and October 16, 9am to 11:30am. Do bring gloves if you have them; but Daniel has some just in case.



From the Farm to CRA

Don't forget our weekly farmers' market....especially September 30 and October 28 when CRA hosts the community table. Do stop by!



Strangers Not

Our "toe in the water".....we hosted our first in-person gathering on the beach in June and all had a great time! Over 70 members joined us, in spite of the foggy conditions.



My Gratitude

Lastly, I personally wish to thank all of you who joined me at my husband Bob's celebration of a life well-lived at Carmel Mission. Your presence was so comforting and appreciated.

Memoria



Charles McMillan
by Evelyn McMillan

John and Marion Roboti
by Robert and Lynn Brooks

Barbara Livingston
by Candice Gregory, Shirley and John Foley, Donna Pribble, Lillian Rico, Skip and Mary Anne Lloyd, Helga Marty, Dick and Frankie Laney, Cindy Lloyd



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 | **Ken White, Vice President**
Tim Twomey, Treasurer | **Frankie Laney, Secretary**
Mary Condry, at Large

MEMBERS

Daniel Cardenas, Janine Chicourrat, Cindy Lloyd,
 Ann Nelson, Tom Parks, Graeme Robertson,
 Nancy Twomey, Sherry Williams, Jon Wolfe

CRA Communications

Tom Parks
Editor

Mary Condry, Nancy Twomey
Editorial Team

Monterey Bay Design
Voice Design & Production

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 member Bob Jenkins for his packet of ideas to support and enhance the work of CRA.

CHEERS Congrats to our *Pine Cone* for their recognition in the *Wall Street Journal* July 8th 2021.

CHIDES To illegal beach fires and disregarding the signs at beach access points.

CHEERS It's great when our restaurants honor reservations as made and accommodate patrons with disabilities.

CHEERS That our city hall, council, boards and commissions are set to host in-person meetings beginning in September.

CHEERS For a great July 4th Monterey County Pops Concert in Devendorf Park...a new Carmel-by-the-Sea tradition?

CHIDES To those who did NOT do their advance planning to support or tolerate the visitor invasions over Concours Car Week.

CHEERS To the residents who DID their advance planning to support or tolerate the visitor invasions over Concours Car Week.

Car Week Somewhere...



Installation Artist **Edward Ralph Kienholz**