

the VOICE

OF THE CARMEL RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION

CELEBRATING 36 YEARS OF COMMUNITY SERVICE

MARCH ♦ APRIL 2023

A Village In A Forest By The Sea

Love me, love my dog. Well, one could argue that's not untrue to a good many Carmelites. Yes, we love our animals. Love thy neighbor? Let's hope that's true also. (Well, the lady next door can be a bit cranky, but that's another story.) So, what's the point here? The point, readers, is taking

pride in who we are, what we believe and where and how we live, and for over 100 years locals have taken great pride in this small Village called—well, you know where we are.

We Carmel regulars love this Village. There are many reasons for that.

Some of us came for employment; others to flee the cities; still others, to retire. But, make no mistake, Carmel was our happily chosen destination. And it didn't take long before we discovered something in ourselves which is called civic pride.

Just look around at the landscape and seascape. A forest that seems to go on forever and is maintained with professional care. There are paths to wander to a destination or to nowhere. Are we tree huggers? Sure, something wrong with that?

Ah, the pacific Pacific. The long stretch of white sand beach, now even whiter after the charcoal cleanup, is one of the coast's most beautiful and accessible. One doesn't have to skip down to the water; a walk along the Scenic path has



become a daily ritual to many regulars. And then there's another beautiful beach, the River Beach, at Carmel Point where the river flows into the sea after layering the bird sanctuary.

The main Village. There are issues current regarding architectural design for our business center and residential neighborhoods. This is no easy task, one to direct the style and the character of what Carmel-by-the-Sea should look like. Much conscious effort by the City and community members is being devoted to a reasonable definition of a Carmel aesthetic. Another something to take pride in our current government. We may not all agree to the Council's final decisions but that's who we are—agree to disagree and take pride in the fact that we can do just that. And let's not forget that there's arguably pride to be taken in the right to vote our choices.

Art and the making of art are endemic to Carmel. The painters, the writers, musicians, poets, actors, teachers are our next-door neighbors.

Let's face it, we may not all be artists

but there is a kind of intrinsic pride in the fact that we share a Village where art is being made. We might just call it a prideful association.

The Forest Theater is one of the very first open-air venues in the country. Carmel regulars have for years attended performances there. Yes, it's often

cold, the benches are hard (bring a pillow, for Pete's sake), but never mind, hundreds of prideful parents watch their kids tap dance on those ancient boards. Just another reason to take pride in our choice to live here, to feel at home here and to be grateful for all that a "small Village in a Forest by the Sea" has to offer.

Now, we're not suggesting that we shout out loud our pride in living here in Carmel: beautiful, inspiring, dramatic, stimulating, exciting, refreshing, perfect. Chauvin (French: 1815?) did that while serving as Napoleon's sycophant—what a guy!

Even so, it seems OK to harbor just a little chauvinism now and then. Nothing too exuberant. How about something like beautiful, inspiring, dramatic, stimulating, exciting, refreshing, perfect. Keep it modest. ■

The Editor

*Letters to the Editor are always welcome.
Readers will find our latest on page 8.*

How Much Do We Care?

by Nancy Twomey

Our Village City Council and Staff Leadership know their role is to preserve and protect everything we, as residents, hold dear. They know they are stewards of our funds, resources, and future. But of course, so are we.

There is power in all our residents' voices and opinions – and of course there is diversity in our views. Our voices can make a difference when they are shared, informed, factual and open to new information that individually we may not yet be aware.

As we want to effect change or prevent change, there are existing rules, laws, ordinances, zoning etc. that must be considered. But many of these processes, guidelines and limitations can and often should be contested or escalated for revisions or even possible legal actions. The recent efforts of citizens efforts pushing back on expanded cell tower placements in residential neighborhoods is a great example of the power of residents' voices have seen strong results, including legal actions with a cellular provider.

Stating the Obvious - in life, business, civic matters and yes, in love too, the more precise we are with our requests, the more actionable our feedback becomes.

CRA shares the progress and details of major projects and initiatives in our Village, in *The Voice*, in our News You Can Use emails and links provided on the home page of our www.carmelresidents.com website. And of course, these items are commonly covered in the *Carmel Pinecone* and the City's Friday Letter/VLOG and notices.

for our Village (see page 3 & 5), with likely ordinance or zoning updates to follow.

- Cell Tower/Wireless Ordinance major revisions,
- 5th & Dolores new building design proposal
- ADU Ordinance updates,
- Parking & Traffic Management proposals,
- exploring standard Addresses in Carmel,
- and saving the best for last that we know it's your favorite, the FY (Fiscal Year) 2023/2024 Budget Plan targeting a June approval.

This roster of initiatives and projects will impact the future of our Village look, feel, and character. Wherever your interest

or concerns lie, please invest
time to become informed.

Share your views in City meetings, with city officials, with council and commission members. Write letters. Make phone calls. Ask your neighbors about their views.

Please care enough

to invest time and your voice in these initiatives. Once again, we may not all agree on the best approach on any one or all of these projects. And likely you will see many of the CRA board members and residents throughout the Village speaking up at these meetings. So, you will be in great company. We all care about this Village we call home – and it is worthy of our care for generations to come. ■

There is a plethora of projects underway right now. These include:

- Design Traditions initiative will update our building and architecture Design Guidelines, with likely ordinance or zoning updates,
- Housing Element 2023 update supporting 349 RHNA (Regional Housing Needs Allocation) new housing unit allocation

SNEAK PEEK - MAY 18TH CRA MEMBERS ONLY - ANNUAL MEETING

What's Up In Our Village – with a Chip & Dave Q&A

Yearly our CRA Board invites us all to gather where we update our membership and look for your feedback live and in person, including some beverages and finger foods. Yes, this is set for this May as usual.

This year, we've invited our Village Mayor Dave Potter and Administrator Chip Rerig to be our honored guests. And yes, they have accepted our invitation to answer your questions. Whether these questions are on our favorite topic of Annual Budget or Strategic Priorities. Or on the array of major initiatives underway.

Please mark your calendar for Thursday May 18th at 5:30 PM at the Carmel Woman's Club for a rousing Q&A and mingling with us all after the program with a beverage and gnashes in hand. This is for Members Only.

The Waves of Life in Carmel-by-the-Sea

DENSIFICATION. There it is, densification, snuggled into the second to last paragraph on the final page of the recently released City Housing Element Analysis. The report identifies possible sites in the greater downtown neighborhood for Carmel's share of the regional housing requirement as assigned by the Association of Monterey Bay Area Governments (AMBAG)---349 units.

If all those units were built, and each had just one occupant, our full-time population would increase by about 11% from the 2020 census figure. All other factors being static, the new population would be 3569, placing our citizen count close to the 1935 estimate---3594.

There have been several periods in the history of Carmel-by-the-Sea when the permanent population swelled and, subsequently, the community changed. A columnist in 1937 wrote "Carmel is a fairly densely populated city--densely compared with years ago when vacant lots were many..."

The first, and largest, acceleration in growth was the decade of 1920-30 when the habitation jumped over 250%, from 638 to 2260. A Carmel business group in the early 1930's advertised that the Village had had the largest growth, percentage-wise, in that decade of any city in Northern California.

The second biggest spurt in population was between 1940-1950, the full-time resident count increasing by 53%, to 4351, probably a statement on soldiers who had encamped or trained at Fort Ord during World War II and stayed or returned to Carmel and the Peninsula after 1945.

The third highest intensification of population was between 1930-40, a 25% jump from the previous ten years; 577 new residents established Carmel as "home."

We reached our population apex at the 1980 census with 4707 residents, 1138 more than the hypothetical citizen count if the 349 new units required by AMBAG are built and occupied. Since then, the population has decreased about 30%. Second homes?

As a city's population increases, secondary impacts arise. Changes occur. In 1935, Perry Newberry expressed concerns about Carmel's additional population, and thus, traffic, opining "a period of change is at hand." Is such a metamorphosis in

Village Keeps Right On a Growing; May be City of 10,000 in '50

California is a changeling -- so far as her populations are and so is Carmel, a changeling.

This once tiny village amid pine trees of an old cattle continues to grow by bursts. More and more people come to enjoy our natural surroundings, out 'unimproved'

Carmel Pinecone 1940's

our future? Secondary impacts?

For six years, beginning in January 1920, the then-water purveyor, Monterey County Water Works, averaged 100 new water connections per year in Carmel. In the first eight months of 1930, the telephone company reported increased tie-ins of 181, one new coupling for every business day, on average, system growth greater than Salinas, San Jose, Santa Cruz, San Luis Obispo, Monterey, Pacific Grove, Paso Robles and Watsonville.

In 1940, PG&E announced its electrical connections in Carmel increased 12.4% from 1939; gas meters grew by 14.8%.

Our treasured postal station has had to supplement the number of mailboxes available for citizens and businesses during times of population expansion. As another example of secondary growth impacts, during the zenith period of 1920-30, the



post office reported 301 new box signups in March 1928, a 28.5% jump in patronage in one month. An additional postal clerk was immediately added.

In 1935, George Wood, a former city councilor, undertook an analysis of Carmel's land and its land uses and determined there was inadequate space to accommodate a population GREATER than 10,000! Using growth statistics, the *Pinecone* in 1940 made an estimate similar

to Wood's, running a headline "Village Keeps Right on a-Growing; May be City of 10,000 in '50."

With each previous population swell, the appearance and aesthetics of Carmel changed. In the 1920's, Dolores Street south of Ocean Avenue developed. In 1928, during the epoch growth decade, the City adopted "Rules for Design" for new residential housing. One local scribe

had described recently constructed homes as "hideous."

With our climb toward 3569 residents by adding the 349 new housing units, how will the aesthetics and design of the Village change? Page 36 of the Housing report reads "...overly restrictive development standards, such as the two-story height limit are not likely to facilitate maximum allowed densities."

What new civic services might need to be added with an 11% increase in population?

In June 1930, a *Los Angeles Times* editorial highlighted the similarities of civic actions taken by Beverly Hills and Carmel-by-the-Sea. The editors opined that the two locales had pursued "the same ideal---to stamp a distinctive personality on their respective cities."

Let's hope the Times commentary holds a century later as densification looms. ■

A Fable

by Tom Parks



Once upon a time (I think that's how a fable begins) there was a tiny Village in a beautiful setting in a Forest by the Sea. It was a tranquil harbor to all who would desire to live in peace and quiet and freedom from the noisy, cluttered, and frantic clamor of the blustering cities.

The folks of this tiny Village were friendly and helpful and loving to their neighbors and to the many visitors who would stare in awe as they breathed in the tranquility and beauty of the township. Idyllic was their mantra.

Across many miles lived a prince who at one time in his youth had visited the Village and fell in love at first sight. "My goodness," is what he shouted, "this is where I want to live forever."

The little prince grew up never once forgetting his love affair with the tiny Village in a Forest by the Sea.

And then the prince became a man. Not just any man but a prince with much gold, so much gold that it became a kind of burden. Our prince did not build a tower in a large city or open and close casinos or universities under his name. Our prince longed for the simple life in the tiny Village in a Forest by the Sea where as a boy-prince he lost his heart.

And so, many years on the prince boarded his carriage (there were no direct flights). His destination? Why, the tiny Village in a Forest by the Sea of his dreams, of course.

So, there he was ensconced in his beautiful castle in a tiny Vil-

lage in the Forest by the Sea.

Happy? Happy enough but something seemed missing in his life. How to solve a problem for the prince. Voila, send a horseman with a note to the minister of your treasury. And that he did only to discover that his coffers were overflowing with more gold than he ever knew he possessed. What to do? (Not an unusual conundrum for a prince.) And then one starry night fate took him into her arms and told him to do this: Buy property, prince.

This then is just what the prince did. In fact, he bought all the property in the tiny Village in a Forest by the Sea. That tiny Village in the Forest by the Sea was his. He became the Lord Mayor by unanimous vote. He retired the City Council. He closed the newspaper. (*The Carmel Pinecone* became just that, pulp).

The tiny Village was in a celebratory frenzy. The tiny Village in a Forest by the Sea was renamed for the prince—something like . . . Wait! A courier has just ridden up with the news. The prince has become King!

What will he call this tiny Village? What possible name could he find that truly epitomized the former tiny Village in a Forest by the Sea? The Village folk held a collective breath in the wee town square—waiting, waiting. (Well, they finally did begin to breathe; one can only hold her/his breath for so long.)

At last, the King appeared atop a plinth constructed in his honor. There he stood, handsome, glorious, draped in gold. Holding his scepter high he spoke. "I name this tiny Village, Carmel-by-the-Sea."



Carmel - How Do We Love Thee?

CRA BOARD MEMBERS COUNT THE WAYS.

Spring is in the air and our CRA Board of Directors are ready with the kinds of energies that define our mission. Our roster includes 15 Board members. Many have served for ten or more years and continue to lead the non-profit organization in the continuing endeavor to serve the citizens of Carmel-by-the-Sea. In this issue of *The Voice*, we'd like to introduce three of our newer board additions.

Of course, we knew of their pro-Village enthusiasm and sensitivity to Carmel issues before we approached them to join us. They each have their personal stories of when and why and how they arrived in town, but we were more interested in what they found when they began life here. So, below readers will find their simple answers to our simple question: what do you love about Carmel? No surprises but it's good to know that our new leaders are a great fit for CRA and Carmel-by-the-Sea.



Sherry Williams

Here's new Board member **Sherry Williams** who's been visiting since 1973 and settled permanently in 2015. Right off the top she shouted out: "Let's stay forever!" She has a long list of what she loves in the Village in a Forest by the Sea. It's the architecture, the beach, the welcoming atmosphere. She applauds CRA as a premier service organization—for

the people. "My husband and I agreed to give Carmel a two-year trial. No need for that—we toasted our good fortune and we're still here." Sherry's list continues: A safe and clean and friendly place. She applauds the Village that both creates and reveres art in all forms. In short, "It's paradise."

A short note from **JC Myers**. He had just returned from a long trip, one of many travel adventures he and his wife have taken over many years. A native of Carmel Valley, he ventured out into the world only to keep his promise to return to the place he loves. "I knew I'd find my way back! Look, I've traveled all over the world, and there is nowhere I would rather live." He has a list as so many of us do; a list, that is of why he loves Carmel. It's the climate, our beautiful beaches, Carmel's tree canopy. "How about the crisp mornings with the smell of our fresh ocean air." And then, "The quietness of our little Village, and the sophistication of world class food and art. I love how friendly neighbors are, that dogs can be just as social as residents." (Editor: no one will disagree with that.) And finally, "That we all care deeply about our community."

"Living in Carmel I know that if ever I need help of any kind, I have a group of great friends and neighbors who would be there for me." That was **Janice Bradner** speaking. She is yet another new member of the CRA Board and already making positive contributions to the cause. After owning a home for 24 years, it was only until 2016 that she and her husband lived in the Village full-time. Certainly, as visitors they soon became aware of the natural beauty of the place, they would one day call home—at

By Tom Parks



JC Myers

last. "Besides the abundant beauty of this magical place there is a real sense of community here by the sea. Being able to revel in the charm of the Village is the icing on the cake." And so it seems to Janice one *can* have the cake and the icing too.

What is not surprising is that these three newer and valuable CRA Board members are telling the same

story. It's a story that so many Carmelites will tell again and again. Is it a comfort thing? A sense of belonging; is it a relief to finally come home to a place where we, even unconsciously, always wanted to be? Perhaps all the above. All the above isn't bad.



Janice Bradner

Visit our Board of Directors CRA website for more on these and all of our Board Members. ■

ABOUT Town

Hot Topics Rolling Along...ready set...

Housing Element & RHNA Challenges – A City Ad Hoc Committee special meeting was held Tuesday Feb 28. As mentioned on pages 2 and 3, our City is challenged to produce an updated Housing Element plan with zoning, processes and incentives for builders and property owners to deliver 349 new housing units in the next 8-year period. The top intended goals are to decrease commuting for local workers while increasing access to affordability options. Producing an approved plan by the end of 2023 is not optional. If we don't, our Village will be penalized with fines, no grants funding and ultimately no local controls over new building projects. Moving this forward, with unknown water sources and near zero available land, will require significant creativity and repurposing no doubt. Preparing and submitting a carefully crafted, preserving Carmel character Housing Element on time, while pushing back on this unrealistic State mandate in parallel, may be the best approach.

Architecture in Carmel - Design Traditions Project 1st drafts of the Design Guidelines are out for review & feedback. For those who want to influence what is or is not allowed with significant remodels or new buildings, you should plug into these review and comment opportunities. Many visitors, businesses and residents are concerned about losing the charm of what makes Carmel Carmel with the changes they see about town. Public meetings and workshops for comments are being scheduled.

Revised Wireless/Telecom Ordinance Project-Special Planning Commission meeting for reviewing the newly pushed drafts is March 15th 4PM in Council Chambers. Follow-up public opportunities for comments will follow. This effort is challenged to be sensitive to Federal & State laws yet have strong local controls and oversight of the placement and appearance of cell towers in our residential zones.

ADU Ordinance (Accessory Dwelling Unit) Updates coming soon. Today's Ordinance needs updating to reflect State Laws and desired ties to our Design Guidelines. (Please no prefab tiny homes)

5th&Dolores (aka Ulrika Plaza) - Review of their updated proposal is targeted for Planning Commission June.

Addresses in Carmel Project – The Carmel Post Master will present at an upcoming Regular City Council, with this project still being researched before any formal public meeting to review findings.

Parking and Traffic Management Project - Consulting engagement is approved, and public meetings expected soon.

Visit the www.carmelresidents.org home page for expanded current details on each of these projects now and again in the months to come.

By Nancy Twomey



Enjoying Life In & Around Carmel

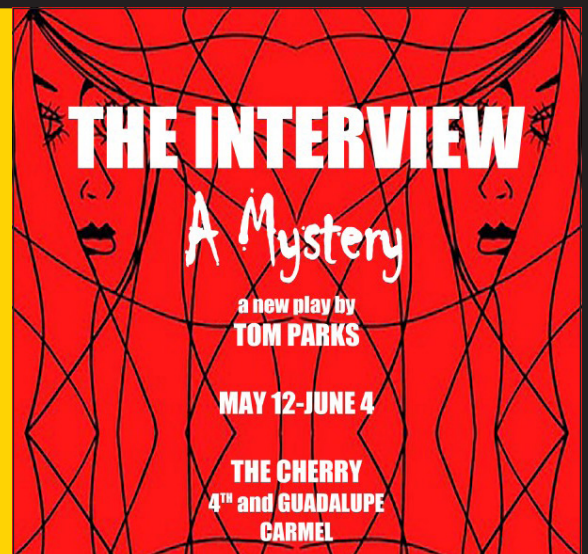
- March 17th – Everyone's Irish – St. Paddy's Day
- March 23rd -24th Whalefest in Monterey
- April 5th – Passover begins, through April 13th
- April 8th - Carmel Lions Club hosts – Breakfast with the Bunny in Devendorf Park
- April 9th – Easter Sunday
- April 18th – Tax Day
- April 20th – "Third Thursday" – 4-7PM at Devendorf Park
- April 22nd – Carmel-by-the-Sea Earth Day in Devendorf Park – CRA and other teams and organizations are hosting activities
- April 30th – Big Sur International Marathon
- May 14th – Mother's Day
- May 19th-21st – Carmel Art Festival in Devendorf Park

More Local Monthly Activities

- Every 2nd Saturday, Weedies volunteers gather in Mission Trail Nature Preserve.
- Every 2nd Saturday, Carmel Art Walk.



There is always so much more to offer at our art galleries and theaters throughout the Village. Always keep The Sunset Center, The Monterey Symphony, The Cherry Theater, The Forest Theater in mind to support the arts. Here is just one upcoming worthy performance for your bursting calendar.



MARY'S Corner

More CRA Board News

We welcome our newest Board Member JC Myers, who's passion and energy for our village abounds (see more on page 5)

And we extend our warmest thanks to Jon Wolfe who will be retiring from our Board for his many years of service on the CRA Board including former Treasurer. Which one of you is interested in joining our Board?

CRA Board Members and Carmel Youth Center Board Members gathered February 6th to explore new collaboration engaging the next generation of Carmel Citizens.

CRA Is Out & About Every Month

Please join us and stop by

- CRA's Beach Cleanup – every 3rd Saturday from 9:30-Noon – our next dates are March 18 and April 15
- CRA at the Farmers Market Community Table every-last Thursday – our next dates are March 30 and April 27
- And also join us at the Carmel Earth Day Celebrations in Devendorf Park April 22nd



Members Only No Host Gathering

Next CRA's Members Only No Host Gathering is April 5th, 2023, from 4:30 to 6:00 at La Balena (Junipero between 5th & 6th.)



See Our Next Generation of Carmel Leaders In Action.

Thursday March 16th 7PM Mock City Council Session. CRA Board Members Ken White & Graeme Robertson again coordinate with City Council, City Staff and Carmel High School (CHS) Leadership to create this Student Government Day. See 12 Carmel Highschool Students impersonate our Council and Department Leaders in a serious relevant (and possibly humorous) annual budget approval session.

Join Us to Celebrate this Years' Carmel

Citizen of the Year

As excitement grows, be sure to mark your calendar for Sunday March 26th 2-4 PM at Carmel Woman's Club. This event is open to the public, with doors open at 1:30, the program with local and regional dignitaries begins at 2:00, and from 3:00-4:00 when we toast, gnosh, and mingle.

Three Outstanding January & February CRA Programs



February 2nd Our Members Only No-Host Gathering at Seventh & Dolores.

And our 2023 programs showcased how our local activist passions and amazing talent have shaped our world – from the arts to our environment. Videos are available for your enjoyment.

January 26th we hosted "Experience the Monterey Bay as Seen by early California Artists" presented by locals, Professor Cynthia Weick and artist/gallery owner Joaquin Turner.

February 22nd we hosted the coauthor of "Humbled, How Monterey Bay Escaped Industrial Ruin" with Katheryn McKenzie. She reveals the 1960's story of how Moss Landing was saved from becoming an expansive oil refinery, changing our region and what it offers forever.

In Memoria



Donation in memory of *Mitzi Francis* from her husband, Dean Francis.



Donation in memory of *Henry & Mona Williams* from their daughter Lacy Buck.



Belinda Vidor Holliday has passed, a Carmel artist, former president of Carmel Art Association and profiled in *The Voice* September/October 2021.

Recognizing Three New Lifetime Members

*Paul & Julie Bruno,
Dave & Lori Nader and
Clive & Marjorie Fields*

And our thanks to everyone for your prompt renewals. Your 2023 VIP offer discount cards have been mailed.



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CRA Membership

Please join or renew your annual membership at \$40 Individual, \$65 Couple, \$120 Benefactor, or \$1000 Lifetime by visiting our website. Enjoy CRA benefits for members only. And your donations keep our 36 years of content and programs relevant for all.

CRA Board of Directors

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

DIRECTORS

Janice Bradner, Mike Brown, Janine Chicourrat, Cindy Lloyd,
JC Myers, Tom Parks, Graeme Robertson, Nancy Twomey,
Sherry Williams, 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 Historic Review Board for protecting the Community Room (or Annex as some call it) at Seventh & Dolores with official Historic Designation.

 **CHEERS** – for the long-awaited (and a bit lengthy) building Design Guidelines first draft that are released for review and comments. If you care about the future of architecture in our Village, this again is your time to chime in. Bravo, Brava to everyone who've invested in this essential project.


 **CHIDES** – to the February golf fanatics who mixed and mingled into black and blue on the streets of Our Village. This was and is not welcome whether you are a resident or a visitor from far or near, anytime, and anywhere.



 **CHEERS** – to all local citizens who weathered the weather in January. Few complaints. And some huzzahs for the much-needed water that fell in buckets. Trees came down, roads washed away but we're still here a bit rattled but grateful for father/mother nature literally dumping on us.

 **CHEERS** – to our City teams who worked tirelessly 24x7 throughout the January storm season dealing with our safety, flooding, down trees, branches, and debris in all its forms. You rock! And we are singing your praises.



 **CHIDES** – for 2023, Carmel-by-the-Sea will not be hosting the past Tuesday Concours on the Avenue and Thursday Tour d'Elegance Luncheon. Many hope for its return in years to come.

Unsolicited Member CHEER or CHIDE??

“Dear Sirs, If you were so stupid when you bought a home in Carmel that didn't have house numbers, sidewalks, street lights, neon signs & mail delivery, we don't need you here. We moved here for what we didn't have.”

