



## Architect Brian Congleton



Start spreading the news! On November 17th, Brian Congleton will be our guest speaker. His presentation poses the question, "What Does Carmel Have That Seaside Doesn't?" Brian notes that Carmel-by-the-Sea and Seaside are both located on the central coast of California, both bookend the City of Monterey, and both were developed in the early 1900s as seaside vacation resort communities. Yet today they are vastly different. His presentation examines how the two communities formed and changed over the last century, depicting critical events and decisions that made them the very distinct places we know today. You won't want to miss this bewitching tale of two cities.

Our guest speaker received his Bachelor of Architecture Degree from the University of Colorado in 1970 and is licensed in Colorado and California. In 1985, Brian relocated to the Monterey

## BACK WITH A TALE OF TWO CITIES

Peninsula and got right down to the business of providing architectural services to the Central Coast. During 26 years of practice in California, Congleton has designed commercial and office projects, college campuses, multifamily housing, and new and renovated properties. Project Master Plans have been prepared for the cities of Carmel and Marina, as well as Marina Coast Water District and several nonprofit organizations.

Mr. Congleton was approached by Doug and Genie Freeman in 2006 to be the architect for their first Carmel-by-the-Sea Concours on the Avenue to be held in August 2007. This was to be the showcase for collector cars from the 1940s to 1973, plus Porsche and Ferrari through 1989. In charge of layouts for each showcase, Brian described Ocean Avenue as a "magical place and perfect backdrop for this event" - an intimate setting, with an island of trees running through it, surrounded by quaint architectural buildings, natural beauty and nothing but blue skies. Couple Brian's affinity for Carmel's natural environment and ambience with his creative, authentic architectural designs and you get the blueprint for the first Concours on the Avenue event in Carmel by-the-Sea. It occurred with great fanfare and accolades from everyone. Pulling out

all the stops, it was considered a premiere event Carmel-by-the-Sea style. This year marked Brian's 5th design of the event.

When it comes to giving back to his community, Brian sets the bar high. His community service includes stints with the Carmel Planning Commission, Carmel Design Traditions Committee, Board of the Carmel Area Wastewater District, and Monterey County Economic Development Commission. Professionally, he is a member and past president of the American Institute of Architects. He co-chaired AIA Monterey Bay Concepts Competition for Housing and is a past president of the Carmel Rotary Club.

## Meeting

**THURSDAY • NOVEMBER 17**

**Speaker: Brian Congleton**

**Time: 4:45 pm**

**Location: Vista Lobos  
Meeting Room**

**(on Torres between 3rd and 4th)**

**"A Tale of Two Cities"**





Barbara Livingston

# THE YEAR THAT WAS

## Remember yesterday? Yesterday was January 1, 2011. And tomorrow?

Tomorrow is December 31, 2011. That's how quickly this year has flashed by. Time flies for those of us lucky enough to live in this glorious village filled with cultural and culinary delights, opportunities for healthy, outdoor living and lots of activities to keep us energized and entertained. Here's what The Year That Was looked like for CRA:

### CRA NEWS

Five issues of CRA NEWS - the best little newspaper in the West - were mailed to members and handed out at the post office to interested Carmelites. One issue every year is mailed to all property owners in the village. We regret we have no mailing list for renters, as we want to be inclusive and embrace all residents of Carmel-by-the-Sea as members of CRA.

### PROGRAMS/SPEAKERS

Our program chair, Roberta Miller, provided us with a great lineup of speakers for our five general meetings:

- **January** - First Sergeant John Hanson, "Changing Hearts and Minds in a World Apart"
- **May** - Photographer Gale Wrausmann, "Zooming in on the Essence of Carmel"
- **September** - Dr. John Arquilla, Naval Postgraduate School "Endgames in Iraq and Afghanistan"
- **November** - Architect Brian Congleton "A Tale of Two Cities"

### BEACH CLEANUP

According to co-chairs, Helen and Mark D'Oliviera, the CRA schedules eight Beach Cleanups per year, from March thru November, skipping September due to the statewide coastal cleanup that month. Coffee and cookies are handed out to participants who enjoy meeting new friends while doing something worthwhile for the city. (*For time and place to meet see details in the NEWS.*)

### ADVOCACY

Advocacy is a primary part of our mission. At city council and planning commission meetings our association advocates for preservation of village character, for protection of our natural beauty and for the far-from-ordinary traditions that allow Carmel-by-the-Sea to be a world-class destination. (See the Calendar for dates of these meetings.)

### DINES OUT

Kathleen and Barry Swift organized three very popular dinners at Carmel restaurants:

- **February** – Casanova Restaurant - owners Gaston & Walter Georis and Denise Dekins were our hosts
- **April** - The Rio Grill - Tony Tollner opened up his new room to the CRA
- **October** - Vesuvio Trattoria - Rich Pèpe's new establishment behind Devendorf Park

### CITIZEN OF THE YEAR

Our big event in 2011 was the Citizen of the Year celebration co-chaired by Kristy Downing and Ovilee Kennedy at the Carmel Woman's Club. This year we honored Greg D'Ambrosio for his years of working to maintain and enhance Carmel's beach, parks and open space. The Citizen of the Year party is held every other year (alternating with Candidates

Forum) and is the CRA's party for the community. Everyone is invited for food, drink and awarding of prizes to the honoree.

### FIESTA IN THE FOREST

August is the month for our Fiesta in the Forest – the ninth year of our members-only party at Indian Village in Pebble Beach. This year, Tony and Jane Diamond added a great band to the festivities, as well as the first CRA raffle. We are grateful to the Diamonds and their volunteer committee who worked so hard to make this a successful Fiesta!

### HOLIDAY COCKTAIL PARTY

Our December Holiday party at the Carmel Art Association will wrap up our year in fine style. Barry and Kathleen Swift, and Mary Ellen Thomas have planned for entertainment and tasty treats for our enjoyment at this members-only, end-of-year celebration. For more details, please see page 6.

If this was The Year That Was, what is ahead for The Year That Will Be? The 25th Anniversary of the Carmel Residents Association - that's what's ahead for 2012! We will celebrate our longevity at a glamorous party chaired by Carol Hilburn at the Mission Ranch. And excitement will build, as we look forward to the April municipal election. To inform voters, the CRA will hold its Candidates Forum at Sunset Center, once again moderated by District Attorney Dean Flippo.

Of course, there will be more good programs/speakers, more dining out, more beach cleanups, more CRA NEWS, another Fiesta, and another Holiday Gala! If you liked The Year That Was, you will love The Year That Will Be!

# What are our Water Supply Options?



Over the past five years California American Water (CalAm) has supplied an average of 13,740 acre-feet per year (AFY) of water to the Monterey Peninsula. CalAm pumps much of the water from the Carmel River without a permit. Come January 1st, 2017, a state order will require CalAm to eliminate this pumping and to cut back on pumping from the over-drafted Seaside Basin. Combined, these cutbacks will reduce supply, leaving a shortfall of roughly 7,000 AFY, or more. Since conservation alone will not fill this shortfall, where will we get additional supplies of water in five short years?

As of last spring the solution was a large regional desalination project (the Regional Project) with a capacity of over 10,000 AFY, governed by a partnership between Marina Coast, the County, and CalAm. Recent events have called into question the viability of that project. Allegations of corruption make the validity of the legal contracts uncertain. Infighting and finger pointing between the County and Marina Coast have "poisoned the well" of good faith needed in a partnership. Monterey County bond counsel concluded the project could not be financed at reasonable interest rates. And finally, a less-than-transparent approach by some has undermined the public trust.

Given this backdrop it is no wonder that CalAm and the County want out of the deal and have entered into mediation with Marina Coast. Thus we should start developing contingency plans now. One option is a large desalination plant physically configured similar to the Regional Project but with different governance and addressing several defects in the current project. These include the need to better align the governance with those who pay for the water. Having

*We can help find solutions to our water supply problems by working toward a consensus on what mix of projects should replace the Regional Project.*

the Peninsula cities, the Pollution Control Agency (MRWPCA), and the Water Management District (MPWMD) involved in oversight would enable the ratepayers to hold the decision makers accountable. Bond counsel needs to be involved from day one so that any governance structure will be designed to get a low interest rate on its bonds.

Having just one project may be appealing, but we need not look further than the failing Regional Project to see the downside of such an approach. Instead, risk management principles would suggest a portfolio approach such that any problems with any single project would not have catastrophic consequences.

A portfolio of projects could include:

- **Expanding aquifer storage and recovery (ASR) from its current 1,000 AFY to 3,000 AFY.** ASR involves pumping water out of the Carmel River during winter months and storing it in the Seaside Basin for later use. It should be jointly managed by MPWMD and CalAm.
- **Diverting wastewater from entering Monterey Bay during the winter months, treating it, mixing it with water from the Carmel River and other groundwater, and using it to help recharge the Seaside Basin.** This could provide 2,700 AFY or more and should be managed by MRWPCA or a sister organization with modified governance to provide a voice for all CalAm ratepayers.

- **Diverting a small fraction of the winter flows of the Salinas River, either for direct use or for ASR and potentially providing several thousand AFY, with a governance structure involving the County Water Resources Agency and a Peninsula entity.**

- **A smaller-scale desalination plant that could be sized to supply any shortfall from the above three projects, currently being advocated by at least five groups.**

We can help find solutions to our water supply problems by working toward a consensus on what mix of projects should replace the Regional Project. We should focus on getting the governance right so that we can have more confidence that the technical, legal, and financial details will be worked out to our benefit. We can help advocate as a united front before the state agencies, speeding approval. Finally, we may need to support a bond to lower the financing cost of some of these projects.

None of this will be cheap and a portfolio approach may not be the cheapest on paper. But when it comes to meeting the January 2017 deadline and ensuring the reliability of our water supply, that may be a price worth paying.



# Greg Cellitti

## Simply Cynthia dishes up a tasty menu bound to please the locals!



*Well, here we are over a cup of coffee at Friar Tuck's. Let me ask you, Greg, how many cups of coffee have you consumed in this landmark restaurant? In other words, how long have you been the proprietor on this corner?*

Cups of coffee, I don't know, but plenty. You know I'm here every day with time out for a vacation now and then. And I've been here at Friar Tuck's since 1978. I grew up in Palo Alto and had my first restaurant job at 15. This corner restaurant was called Donel's before I changed the name and did some remodeling. We're open from 7:30 to 3:00. Keeps us busy.

*For locals, Carmelites, your location seems to be perfect, 5th and Dolores, right next door to the Post Office. We understand you've been very generous to candidates running for local offices, those who campaign in front of the PO. Free coffee?*

Free coffee or tea. Listen, any man or woman who runs for public office needs a pick-me-up on the stump. I don't take sides.

*He's a busy businessman, Greg Cellitti. First thing out he offers us coffee and a sit-down at a back table at Friar Tuck's, his long established corner restaurant. He's up and down, signing checks, greeting customers, placing phone orders. Five minutes later he takes a deep breath and gives us his full attention. Nice guy.*

*Greg, you have a wife, Cynthia. How long have you been married? Is she an active partner in Friar Tuck's?*

She is. Just let me say she's the greeter, the charmer and the cream in my coffee. We've had eight years of a great marriage.

*Are your diners mostly Carmel folks or do you serve as many visitors? We know guests who hit this place the first morning they're in town. Is that unusual?*

In the early days of Friar Tuck's our customers were about 65% locals. Times have changed. Now Carmel's visitors make up that same percentage. Cynthia and I are aware that people go where they're comfortable. There are a lot of restaurants in this little village. We're pleased when locals and visitors choose us.

*Greg, off the subject of restaurants for a moment, we understand that you have a history of a very unusual sport. How does that compare to flipping flapjacks with a side of bacon? Care to comment?*

Sure, first of all what you're referring to is a myth. I had a couple regulars in here who were skydivers. They challenged me to jump.

I did it but I only did it two times. There was a TV cameraman on the ground watching me on one of these jumps. The station must've needed material bad

'cause they put the tape on a loop and ran it twenty four times. I came away with a reputation as a gung ho skydiver.

Fame is fleeting.

Do you want to know what I'm up to now? No, it's not sky diving. Come with me, it's just up the street.

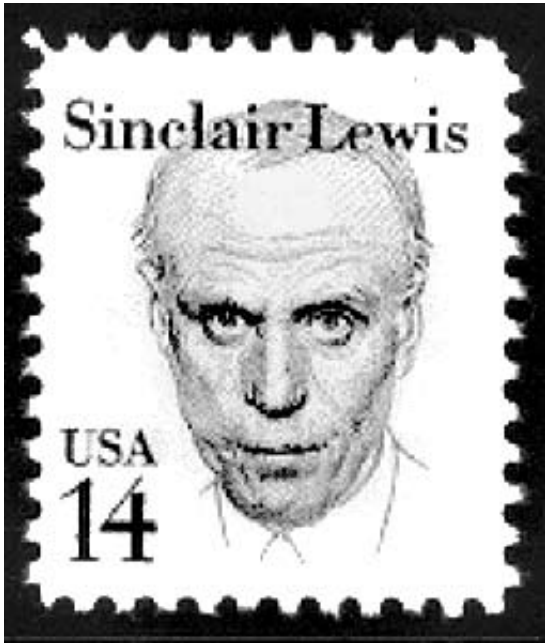
*Note: It is at this point when Greg Cellitti invites us to his new restaurant, **Simply Cynthia's**, on the corner of 5th and San Carlos.*

This is our new place named after Cynthia. We figured Carmel needed a comfortable gathering place where the food was good, the people were friendly and the prices were reasonable. Cynthia and I have worked at this idea for some time. Look around you, there's plenty of room between tables, the carpeted floors keep the noise at a decent level. We serve beer and wine and a menu of meats and pastas and fish.

*Greg, your new place looks terrific. The CRA wishes you the best of luck with **Simply Cynthia's**. Carmel has been waiting for a restaurant which features simple, reasonably priced food. Do you take reservations?*

Just give us a call.

# Carmel and Sinclair Lewis AN UNEASY BOND



"Postage stamp honoring Sinclair Lewis issued in 1985. Courtesy United States Postal Service."

If, in 1909, someone had surveyed Carmel's famous, eventually famous, and hoping-to-be famous literati to determine who among them was the least likely to be the first American author to win the Nobel Prize for Literature, undoubtedly the unanimous choice would have been Sinclair Lewis. Although the then 23-year-old had published a few short stories, mostly in obscure magazines, he was still heavily dependent on other people to stave off starvation.

Lewis first came to Carmel at the invitation of Grace MacGowan Cooke, a modestly successful author. They met at Helicon Hall, an experiment in communal living in New Jersey. Cooke was briefly a resident at Helicon and Lewis, a Yale student, was a summer employee. Ostensibly, Cooke brought him to Carmel to be her part-time secretary. Mark Schorer, Lewis' biographer, described Cooke as a woman with "a gentle voice and great patience", observing that her expectations of Lewis

"transformed into a considerable trial of that patience." With his accustomed perversity, he eventually returned her kindness by publishing a satirical short story entitled "The Smiling Lady", about a character obviously based on Cooke.

At least briefly, Lewis was included in the social life of Carmel's "Bohemians". He particularly enjoyed participating in the amateur theatricals so popular among the group. In a later article in *The Pine Cone*, Fred Bechdolt remembered him as "a shabby young enthusiast, whose only claims on fame at the time were an unpredictable

disposition, much red hair, and a great many freckles." Grace Cooke's daughter, Katherine, was less charitable, describing him as "fresh, gifted, pimpled, and generally disliked." His closest friend was probably the poet William Rose Benet (Stephen Vincent Benet's older brother). Lewis' first stay in Carmel ended when he went home with Benet to Benicia where Benet's father was commander of the Benicia presidio.

Lewis returned to Carmel for a brief interval the following year. During that visit he met Jack London. According to Schorer, Lewis had still not found the voice that would lead to successful authorship. Although he had files crammed with possible plots, he lacked "imaginative focus" and was unable to "develop fictional situations either fully or dramatically." London had the opposite problem. He was able to skillfully elaborate plots once outlined, but had great difficulty originating them. Hence, they arrived at a "sensible" transaction where Lewis supplemented his meager income by selling plots to London.

Lewis' lifelong love of Carmel's natural beauty encouraged visits in succeeding years as his career flourished. In 1930, the now renowned author of *Main Street*, *Babbitt*, *Arrowsmith*, *Elmer Gantry*, and *Dodsworth* returned to meet Lincoln Steffens, Carmel's famous muckraking journalist. Lewis wanted Steffens' thoughts on a contemplated, but never completed, novel about labor. Schorer quotes Steffens, "I lost my temper and roasted him. He danced with joy and when I ceased insulting him...he pleaded with me...don't stop, go on and get mad. I can't do a novel unless I am in a rage and that's what I'm here for."

The final visit to the Monterey Peninsula cited in the Schorer biography occurred in 1933. Sadly, Lewis was obviously suffering from years of alcohol abuse. Yet, only three years earlier he had accepted the Nobel Prize for Literature with a lecture that remains a classic, albeit acerbic, analysis of the state of early twentieth century American literature--a lecture that included these words: "I have for the future of American literature, every hope and every eager belief. We are coming out, I believe, of the stuffiness of safe, sane, and incredibly dull provincialism. There are young Americans today who are doing such passionate and authentic work that it makes me sick to see I am a little too old to be one of them."

Perhaps as a young man in Carmel, surrounded by a natural environment that he really loved though seldom mentioned, he met some people who helped him, despite his idiosyncrasies, to discover a life away from "the stuffiness of safe, sane, and incredibly dull provincialism"--the provincialism that became the target of his best and still relevant novels.



# Community CALENDAR

## ■ VETERANS DAY CEREMONY

Friday, November 11th, 11:00 AM  
Devendorf Park

## ■ CRA GENERAL MEETING

November 17th, 4:45 PM at Vista Lobos  
Torres between 3rd & 4th  
No-host Social hour follows

## ■ CRA BEACH CLEANUP 10:00 to noon

Saturday, November 19th  
Foot of Ocean Ave.

## ■ 41ST ANNUAL HOMECRAFTERS MARKETPLACE

Saturday, November 19th, 9 a.m. – 3 p.m.  
Sunset Center

## ■ CARMEL HOLIDAY TREE LIGHTING

Friday, December 2nd, 4:30 p.m.  
Ocean Avenue and Devendorf Park

## ■ CITY COUNCIL MEETING

Tuesday, December 6th, 4:30 p.m.  
City Council Chambers

## ■ CRA HOLIDAY PARTY

Saturday, December 10th, 6:00 p.m.  
Carmel Art Association  
Make your reservations now!

## ■ CITY COUNCIL MEETING

Tuesday, January 10th\*, 4:30 p.m.  
\* Tentative date  
City Council Chambers

## ONGOING CITY MEETING DATES:

All held in City Council Chambers,  
Monte Verde between Ocean and 7th.  
Check with City Hall for updates.  
<http://ci.carmel.ca.us/>

City Council, 1st Tues., 4:30 pm

Forest and Beach Commission,

1st Thurs., 1:30 pm

Planning Commission, 2nd Wed., 4 pm

Community Activities and Cultural

Commission, 2nd Tues., 9:30 am

Historic Resources Board, 3rd Mon., 4 pm

Library Board of Trustees, 4th Wed., 9 am

Please see the CRA's website for the  
schedule of meetings and events.

[www.carmelresidents.org](http://www.carmelresidents.org)

Council meeting TV broadcast:  
the Sunday after the meeting,  
8:00 am-noon, Channel 26.

# CRA Holiday



# Gala Cocktail Party!

AT THE CARMEL ART  
ASSOCIATION

The CRA's Holiday Party Committee - Barry and Kathleen Swift and Mary Ellen Thomas – have arranged for something new, a festive holiday cocktail party for members only on Saturday, December 10th, at the Carmel Art Association, located on the west side of Dolores Street between 5th and 6th Avenues.

Michael Jones, of **A Moveable Feast**, will provide his renowned tasty food and refreshments. In addition to the musical entertainment of the Merry Carolers, we will have an opportunity to wander the galleries and view the exciting paintings and sculptures, all by Carmel area artists. For those CRA members who have never been to the Carmel Art Association, this will be an eye-opening experience! Doors will open at 6:00 P.M.

The price is all inclusive – full bar, including Michael Jones' special holiday punch and hearty, delicious finger food which will be passed by servers. Checks for \$35. per person should be sent to Barry Swift, Box AC, Carmel, 93921 **no later than December 1st.**

The committee has made a special effort to secure a weekend date so that our members who live here only part time will be able to attend. Remember, our holiday party is for CRA members only.

The Carmel Residents Association and the Carmel Art Association are highly respected Carmel institutions. CRA members, artists Belinda Vidor Holliday, Eleen Auvil, Frankie Laney, Diane Wolcott, Olof Dahlstrand and Cornelia Emery are also participating members of the Carmel Art Association. We think it is fitting that the Carmel Residents Association will celebrate the holidays in Carmel at the Carmel Art Association Gallery!



# 'tis the season...



*to be jolly, to deck our halls  
with boughs of holly, to don  
ourselves in fine apparel  
and celebrate the holidays  
in grand CRA style!*

**SATURDAY, DECEMBER 10TH**



*Fast away the old year passes  
Hail the new ye lads and lasses  
Sing we joyous all together  
Fa la la la la, la la la la!*

## LETTER TO THE EDITOR

### Carmel needs to raise the price of Admission...

In response to CRA board member Michael LePage's timely editorial in the CRA NEWS Sept/Oct. 2011, titled "How Will Carmel Keep The Budget In The Black?", a reader responded: "If Carmel-by-the-Sea is to survive, it will have to raise its price of admission". The reader went on to say that "LePage's big 3 – paid parking, 2% increase in hotel tax and an increase in the sales tax to bring us into conformity with other Peninsula cities, would produce the \$3 million we need to bring back the services and staff which have been so ruthlessly cut from city budget over the last 10 years."

## A WARM WELCOME!

The Carmel Residents Association extends a warm welcome to our new City Administrator, Jason Stilwell, his wife Julie and son Brody. We hope their years in our village in a forest by the sea will be very enjoyable. Jason will be a visible presence in town as he intends to walk everywhere from his house near the Forest Theater.

## AND THE WINNERS ARE:

Fiesta in the Forest Raffle Winners  
 Belinda Vidor painting - Inge Kessler  
 Andree Bouchee - Peggy Purchase  
 Golf and golf towels - Kathy Fredrickson  
 Cornelia Emery painting - Judy Refuerzo  
 Sunset Center/Flaherty's - Ali McDaniel  
 Me Too Salon products - Maria Boisevert  
 La Playa/Pac Rep - Helen Jaye

## CORRECTION

### from the Sept/Oct newsletter:

The photograph of Dr. John Arquilla should have said: Credit Javier Chagoya, photographer

## MAKING CARMEL A BETTER PLACE


If you watched the Halloween Parade in Carmel on October 29th, you must have seen the CRA Beach Cleanup participants.

The Original Beach Master himself, Clayton Anderson with his wife Linda, rode in Ron Fredrickson's convertible, receiving his deserved accolades.

Farther back with the marchers, were the Beach Cleanup volunteers and current co-chairs, Helen and Mark D'Oliviera. Resplendent in orange safety vests and carrying scooper tools fashioned by Wayne Kelley, the beach group proudly chanted:

*"In this town of pride and beauty  
 To clean the beach is our first duty.  
 Join us in our monthly quest.  
 And keep our beach the very best!"*

It takes a crew – CRA members, visitors, school children, and volunteers from the National Charity League – to clean the beach. It takes others, like Judy and Mike Cunningham who bring cookies from Safeway, Barbara and Dick Stiles who bring coffee from the Carmel Coffee House. These refreshments are given at no cost to the CRA out of respect for the 18 years of helping the city to keep our beach clean. This is just one way that the Carmel Residents Association enjoys and contributes to making life better in Carmel-by-the-Sea.



**CAROLYN GRAHAM**

**JACK WICKHAM**  
 Member since 1989

**Donation in Memory  
 of Howard Skidmore  
 by ZaZa Skidmore**

## WHAT IS CRA ALL ABOUT?

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.

## BECOME A MEMBER!

It's easy to become a member of the Carmel Residents Association.

- Visit us on line:  
[www.carmelresidents.org](http://www.carmelresidents.org)
- or email us:  
[carmelresidents@gmail.com](mailto:carmelresidents@gmail.com)
- or call us: **626-1610**

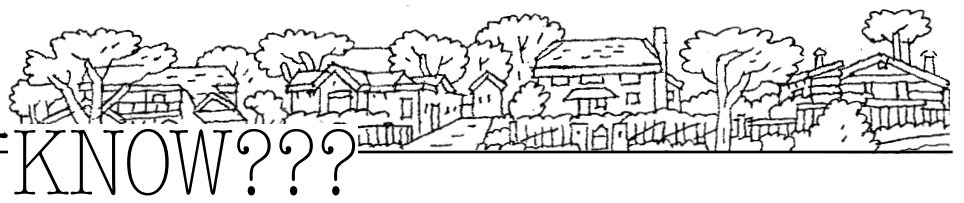
## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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Tom Parks	625-9094
Richard Stiles, Meeting Logistics	626-0325
Barry Swift	625-1426
Charlotte Townsend	624-0780
Ken White	624-4538

## CRA NEWSLETTER TEAM

Programs	Roberta Miller
Dines Out	Kathleen and Barry Swift
Editorials	Guest writers
President's Message	Barbara Livingston
Favorite Places	
Spotlight on Members	
Village Profiles	Tom Parks
Old Carmel	Richard Flower
City Watch	CRA News Team
Content Review	Betty Dalsemer
	James Emery
Proof Reader	Mary Condry
Email Manager	Dick Dalsemer
Post Office Distribution	Diane and Fred Siegel
Illustrations	Kelly Steele
Design & Production	Bonny McGowan
Copy Editor	Sarah McGowan
Beach Cleanup Coordinators	Helen and Mark d'Oliveira

# did you



# KNOW???

## SANTA CLAUS IS COMING TO TOWN

Don't forget the December 2nd holiday party and Christmas tree lighting at Ocean Avenue and Junipero Street. This holiday tradition includes greetings from Mayor McCloud, merry old Santa, carolers, hot cider and cookies and games for children in Devendorf Park. Be there at 4:30 as the crowd counts down the seconds to the miraculous turning on of the lights. Following the lighting ceremony, plan to stay downtown for drinks and dinner at any one of Carmel's fabulous restaurants. On your way to dinner, drop into our wonderful stores to get a jump start on your holiday gift shopping. Happy Holiday Season to each and every one.

## DON'T JUST EAT AND RUN!!!

When meeting friends for lunch downtown, don't just eat and run—take time to wander around the village. Within

a short stroll of every Carmel restaurant are shops and courtyards worthy of exploration. Recently, a friend and I met at **Basil** on San Carlos. After a delightful lunch in the courtyard, we wandered south on San Carlos to **Pacific Rim** where I bought a stunning small fabric bag, then on to **Thinker Toys** to look for gifts for young friends, and onto **Eco Carmel** for the latest in sustainable organic products where my friend bought a charming rustic bird feeder made from bleached wood pieces found on Carmel beach and tree pod findings.

Another day, after lunch at **Luca**, we visited **The Soiled Doves Bath House** on the north side of Piccadilly Park. Owner Betsy Durnell's name for her shop has an historic meaning dating from the gold rush days when men outnumbered women 100-1 and women offered their services in many different ways – operating bath houses,

taking in laundry, mending clothes, cooking meals, etc. Those “soiled doves” are remembered in Betsy's shop filled with lovely bath and body fragrances. She carries a small collection of one-of-a-kind and vintage jewelry that I can't resist. The lovely vintage white cotton dresses in the window? To honor the memory of those “soiled doves” of yesteryear.

Directly across the street we hit one of our favorite places – **Piccolo**, with the tag line “a collection of curiosities and indulgences”. Jeannie Koby has filled this shop with pottery, clothing, jewelry, children's items, ribbons and more! You have to see this shop to believe it.

Lunching and visiting shops is always a memorable and entertaining way to spend several hours in Carmel-by-the-Sea. And at the same time, our Christmas shopping list gets smaller with each outing.

## CARMEL RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION

Post Office Box 13  
Carmel-by-the-Sea, CA 93921  
[www.carmelresidents.org](http://www.carmelresidents.org)  
[carmelresidents@gmail.com](mailto:carmelresidents@gmail.com)

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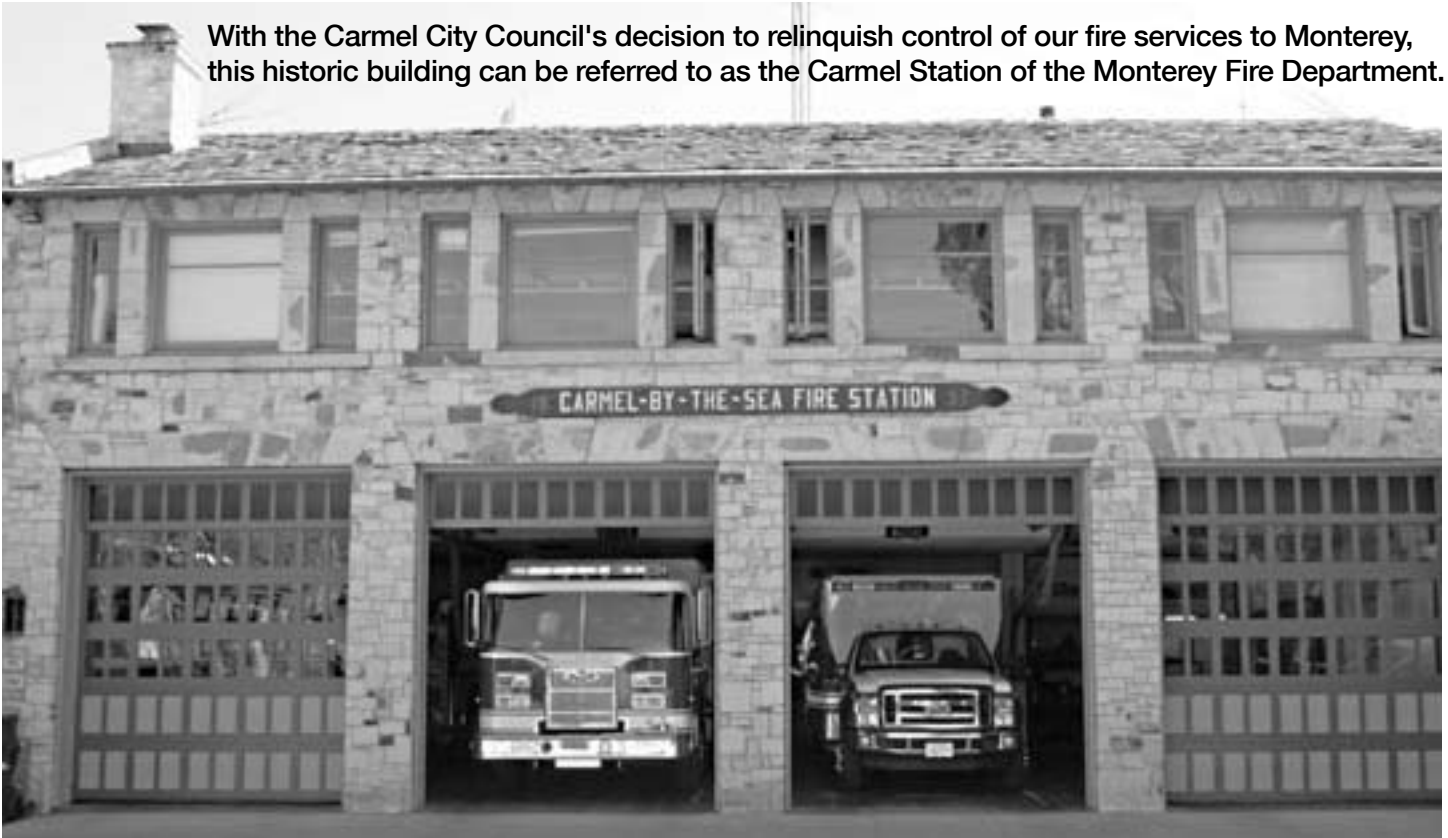
The CRA Board wishes to assure our members that we do not sell, trade, lend or in any other way share our mailing list with any organization or company. This list is held in the strictest confidence for our organization's use only.





# THE CARMEL FIRE DEPARTMENT THAT WAS...

With the Carmel City Council's decision to relinquish control of our fire services to Monterey, this historic building can be referred to as the Carmel Station of the Monterey Fire Department.



In September, the City Council majority of McCloud, Hazdovac and Sharp voted to give away Carmel's fire department—existing since early 1900s—by relinquishing authority to the Monterey City Council, yet obligating Carmel for millions of dollars in coming years. Their actions do not have full community support.

In voting, councilmen Burnett and Talmage symbolically abstained, unable to convince the others to define how services should be delivered or to focus on medical/rescue emergencies (the vast majority of calls) by developing solutions that integrate our ambulance service. Their efforts fell on deaf ears. In the history of Carmel, this was the singularly most important decision affecting health and safety of residents, yet no other council member seemed the least bit inquisitive or concerned.

As a result, the acquisition of Carmel's fire department will result in Monterey's hiring our nine firefighters to provide the fire/emergency response services and running their operations out of our building with our equipment. This new arrangement is best described as "The Carmel Station of the Monterey Fire Department."

## **PROCESS MANAGED INCORRECTLY**

Important decisions deserve an inclusive process. In this case though, the entire City Council was denied opportunities to articulate what services it wanted to fit Carmel's unique needs, so no formal requests for proposals were ever issued to Monterey or Cal Fire.

An April meeting on fire/ambulance services, billed as a "workshop to receive public input and to provide direction to staff for further study and analysis..."

was time wasted because (to the surprise of four of them) Council members were relegated to the audience and thus blocked from providing leadership or direction. The agenda misled the Council majority as much as the public.

Mayor McCloud had insisted that ambulance issues be dealt with separately from fire services, leaving a piecemeal approach to addressing interrelated services.

Then in September, McCloud revealed (surprising the council members again) that she and Vice-Mayor Hazdovac had met secretly with Monterey principals, undermining the process that should have happened. Apparently McCloud and Hazdovac had no intention of considering anything but a full merger and likely squandered any leverage Carmel had in dealing with Monterey by also having Cal Fire at the table.

*(Continued on reverse side)*

## FOLLOW THE MONEY

Money is always a strong motivating factor, and Carmel was pressured from all sides to merge. For six years, Carmel successfully shared Chief Andrew Miller's services for administrative oversight, first with Pacific Grove, then Monterey. Now, Monterey refuses to continue this arrangement—never saying why—and has pressed Carmel into a full acquisition. Monterey realizes financial gain when it shifts costs of a top-heavy administration to other cities, and Monterey's unstated goal is to broaden and strengthen its control over regionalized services. They aren't doing this out of benevolence toward Carmel.

Pacific Grove's City Manager, anxious for Carmel's participation in the three-way contract, admitted his city's costs will decrease. Similarly, if Pacific Grove ever withdraws for lack of affordability, Carmel's costs will increase.

Carmel firefighters are eager to become Monterey employees for various reasons, one being compensation. As former Interim City Administrator John Goss stated, the firefighters will realize "modest differences . . . without losing compensation." Reading between those lines, that means a raise. Carmel firefighters offered to forfeit one of three 8.75% raises if Carmel went with Monterey. It is unclear how much of that might be regained as Monterey employees.

## THE DEVIL IS IN THE DETAILS

Monterey's tentative contract excluded any commitment to our ambulance service and its employees, though Monterey orally committed to administering it short term, with a long-term plan to follow later. Will Monterey firefighters work alongside Carmel ambulance employees to cover engines and respond to emergencies? Will Carmel ambulance employees become Monterey employees? Such issues should have been resolved before committing to any contract.

Monterey's offering was a "cost plus" contract based on projections. It places the burden of risk on Carmel when Carmel is relinquishing control of all costs for negligible savings. Both Talmage and Burnett made valiant efforts to request many vital contract changes to protect Carmel's interests, reduce its risk, and meet the level of service Carmel deserves. Monterey is now challenged to meet the demands of Talmage and Burnett.

Residents expecting to keep our firefighters in place because they know Carmel's unique terrain should realize that

Carmelites have worked tenaciously to preserve certain values and community character.

Carmel faces real problems, but the cost for divesting services to another city goes beyond dollars and cents. By taking incremental steps to divest, our Council slowly chips away at the foundation of what we value as a community. Carmel's combined fire and ambulance service is unique among California cities. We identify our quality of life with the uniqueness of our village and our sense of community.

One day Carmel residents will wake up to find that their civic leaders have turned Carmel into a Monterey neighborhood.

That is not a comfortable thought. The possibilities to divest services loom for departments such as police, forest and beach, public works and planning. Pacific Grove uses Monterey's Planning Department. Carmel shares police services with Pacific Grove. That is how it started with our fire department: sharing first with Pacific Grove, then by default with Monterey when those cities consolidated departments.

Our Council leaders need to pursue and implement a vision for the future of Carmel that we can support. What kind of community do they want Carmel to be and what will the next generation inherit? Will Carmel become dominated by a larger peninsula city or will Carmel preserve its individuality and small-town lifestyle? Before another divestiture occurs, we need answers. In the meantime, if nothing changes you can wave goodbye to Carmel's fire department.

*One day Carmel residents will wake up to find that their civic leaders have turned Carmel into a Monterey neighborhood.*

Monterey will assign our firefighters to the Carmel station for only one year while all other Monterey personnel are trained for Carmel assignments. Let's hope Carmel prevails in securing a better continuity alternative so response times will not suffer.

At our publication deadline, Carmel City Administrator Jason Stilwell was charged with working out contract details. It was uncertain whether Monterey would accept all of Talmage's and Burnett's amendments.

## A VISION NEEDED FOR CARMEL'S FUTURE

Trends in California may be moving toward shared services or regionalization that blurs lines between communities. But, Carmel does not always have to follow suit. Former City Administrator Jere Kersnar observed, "Carmel is different and it got that way on purpose."