



Nancy Gardner Councilwoman



Newsletter: September 2007

Newport Beach, California

City Contacts

City Hall

General Information 644-3309

Table with 2 columns: Department Name and Phone Number. Includes Administrative, Building Dept, City Clerk, etc.

Emergency Services table with 2 columns: Service Name and Phone Number. Includes Emergency, Fire Dept, Police Dept.

Libraries table with 2 columns: Library Name and Phone Number. Includes CdM, Main, Mariners, Balboa.

Oasis Senior Center 644-3244

Post Office table with 2 columns: Office Name and Phone Number. Includes CdM, Main.

COUNCILWOMAN

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CORONA DEL MAR BRANCH LIBRARY MEETING - Round 2

On August 27, we held two meetings to discuss the potential relocation of the Corona del Mar branch to the Oasis Senior Center. This was prompted in part by a need to enlarge the fire station which shares the site and also because library statistics show declining usage at the branch, particularly in children's programs.

We are having a second meeting on Saturday, September 8, at 9:00 a.m., again at the CdM branch, where we will propose abandoning the plan to relocate the branch to the Oasis and discuss the ramifications of that as well as exploring what we can do to retain the branch at its current site by reinvigorating children's programming, fundraising, etc.

THE AERIE

If you didn't stay up until 1:00 a.m. on August 14, then you don't know how this cliffhanger ended. This was a proposal to replace an aging, 16,000-square-foot two-story apartment building which sits on the bluff with nine luxury condos which would cascade a good ways down that bluff and, with underground parking, total 72,000 square feet.

PELICAN HILLS ROAD NORTH

During the long construction of The Resort at Pelican Hills, residents in surrounding communities became alarmed at several accidents involving construction vehicles at the intersection of Pelican Hills Road North and Newport Coast Drive

With Councilman Keith Curry spearheading the effort, the City studied the intersection and found a number of engineering problems which apparently the County did not recognize at the time it was constructed.

A re-design has just been submitted to the homeowners' associations for their approval as a first step to making the needed improvements.

NEWPORT COAST COMMUNITY CENTER

I urge you all to make a visit to the Newport Coast Community Center which will be opening in September and sets a new standard for community centers in Newport Beach. The Center has a great gym, an indoor-outdoor stage, multipurpose rooms for art, dancing, meetings.

BALBOA THEATER/COASTAL COMMISSION

I am headed up to Humboldt with Mary Lonich, Executive Director of the Balboa Performing Arts Theater Foundation; Assistant City Manager Sharon Wood; and Carol McDermott of Government Solutions (who is donating her time) to try and persuade the Coastal Commission to give the okay to the theater.

Coastal Commission staff is concerned that the theater will impinge upon parking for beachgoers although City studies suggest that parking is adequate. The theater has

BALBOA THEATER (cont'd)

offered to forego weekend matinees during the summer months to allay staff concerns, but nothing is settled at this point.

Recently, the Commission demanded a \$5 million mitigation for the conversion of the tennis courts to condos at the Marriott on the grounds that we were removing a coastal visitor-serving use. If the tennis courts—a long way from the beach and open only to hotel guests and members of the private club—were deemed visitor-serving I'm not sure why the theater, which is practically on the beach and open to every one, isn't, but these are the vagaries of the Coastal Commission, which can be frustrating to those of us who support its mission.

TRAFFIC

Mea culpa. Back in January (can I claim freshman ignorance?) I agreed to let work on the PCH medians in Corona del Mar begin in late August. This was in response to a request by the BID (Business Improvement District) to be sure that any work would be finished before the Christmas season began.

It was hard to argue, but I want to thank staff for helping to move me up to dull normal by tailoring the construction hours to avoid the morning and evening commute and quickly fulfilling my request to have flashing signs installed at Newport Coast Drive to direct drive-through traffic on a temporary detour.

MORE ON TRAFFIC

The flower streets in CdM were designed when families had two cars which they kept in the garage and businesses were small with few employees. With far more cars today, the streets tend to be linear parking lots, narrowing the driving area to the point that two cars can have trouble passing.

In response to queries, I have asked staff to prepare a white paper on the advantages and disadvantages of one-way streets to see if that's something we want to explore more seriously.

MORE ON PARKING

A thriving commercial area is good for the city, but in areas like CdM where there is virtually no buffer between residential and commercial, it leads to friction. Businesses are chronically short of parking spaces for both customers and employees, and residents often complain about the noise and inconvenience of having both groups parking in front of their homes.

WHAT DO YOU THINK?

- > CdM Parking
> CdM Branch Library Closure
> Palm Trees
> City Hall Location

Comments

This is a two-way process, so please don't hesitate to contact me with your ideas and opinions.