



Nancy Gardner

Councilwoman

Newsletter: July 2008

Newport Beach, California

City Contacts

City Hall

General Information
644-3309

Departments	644-
Administrative	3127
Building Dept	3275
City Clerk	3005
City Council	3004
City Manager	3000
Economic Dev	3225
General Services	3055
Graffiti Hotline	3333
Harbor Resources	3034
Licenses	3141
Mayor	3004
Public Info Office	3031
Planning Dept	3200
Public Works	3311
Recreation	3151
Refuse Collection	3066
Senior Services	3151
Streets/Sidewalks	3060
Utilities	3011
Water/Sewer	3050

Emergency Services	
Emergency	9-1-1
Fire Dept	633-3104
Police Dept	644-3717

Libraries	
CdM	644-3075
Main	717-3800
Mariners	717-3838
Balboa	644-3076

Oasis Senior Center
644-3244

Post Office	
CdM	673-2989
Main	640-4663

COUNCILWOMAN

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SOBER LIVING HOMES

The City has reached a tentative agreement with the largest proprietor of group homes in the City, Sober Living by the Sea, which will reduce the over-concentration on the peninsula by reducing the number of beds from 238 to 156; disperse existing facilities; and set an overall cap on the number of beds Sober Living may have in the City. Most significantly, the agreement applies to all group homes *including six-and-under-licensed*. I can't stress the importance of this enough. Without this agreement, Sober Living could open as many six-and-under-licensed as it wanted because such facilities are protected by state law and cannot be regulated by the City. Other details: Sober Living can have a maximum of 204 beds in the City, but there cannot be any increase over 156 until the dispersion of existing facilities is complete, and then they can be located only in MFR zones and only off the peninsula; there will be a 1000-foot separation from schools and licensed day care facilities; and there will be strict operating standards.

As most people know, after the City passed the ordinance dealing with the overconcentration of group homes, we were sued by Sober Living for going too far and by a group called the Concerned Citizens of Newport Beach (CCNB) for not going far enough. Shortly thereafter settlement talks began with a three-way, confidential mediation before a retired judge with the City using the expressed desires of CCNB as the foundation of our demands from Sober Living. Someone gave the Register a copy of the confidential materials distributed during the mediation which meant the story broke before a final settlement was reached. However, we are optimistic that we will reach an accord. If an agreement is finalized, it will be turned into a Development Agreement which will go to the Planning Commission and City Council for public hearings and approval.

CARS BLOCKING SIDEWALKS

I get occasional complaints about residents who park their cars so that they block the sidewalk, forcing pedestrians into the street. If a pleasant comment doesn't work, you can call 644-3717 to report this.

IRIS SIGNAL

The pedestrian signal at Iris and Coast Highway will begin construction in September, after summer traffic.

4th of JULY

The parking lot at Big Corona was full by 8:30 am, and there were so many canopies it looked like the beach had been wrapped by Christo. Forget about flags and fireworks. What the Fourth of July is really about is food. All the grocery stores between here and Riverside must have had empty shelves because under every canopy was a small feast. Anticipating the crowd, General Services put out extra trash cans, not just on the beach but on the paths leading to both Big and Little Corona. They were also out early the next day. By the time the first beachgoers arrived on Saturday, there was no indication of the masses that had been there the day before. And for those who think that we are not always welcoming to our guests, my neighbor up the street let a strangers park in her driveway. She said it was because they had a car full of kids. There had been six children in her family, and the beach was the only getaway they could afford. She didn't want this other family to miss their day at the beach because there was no parking.

WHAT DO YOU THINK?

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