



Nancy Gardner

Councilwoman



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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
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Mayor	3004
Public Info Office	3031
Planning Dept	3200
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Senior Services	3151
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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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THE UBIQUITOUS PRESENCE OF STYROFOAM

Since 2004, the Irvine Ranch Water District has had a debris boom across San Diego creek during the low flow season. On a regular basis they remove the trash, dry it and weigh it. 12,100 pounds of trash have been collected, made up of 3% metal, 3% glass, 4% paper, 23% plastics, 26% rubber, and 41% Styrofoam by weight. When you think of how light Styrofoam is, this is an amazing figure. I was a little puzzled by the amount of rubber, but then I remembered all the tennis balls I've collected during cleanups. Either tennis players have a really hard time keeping the ball in the court, or too many dogs aren't doing a very good job of fetch.

LEAF BLOWERS

Coming up with a good alternative to noisy leaf blowers is a challenge. Sweeping has apparently gone the way of the dodo bird. We absolutely don't want people hosing off their patios and yards (drought, runoff, argh!). Models touted by the AQMD (Air Quality Management Board) don't stand up to commercial use (the City tested them). When Claremont outlawed gasoline models, commercial gardeners switched to electric. However, when homeowners wouldn't let them plug into their home supply, the gardeners went out and bought generators which were noisier and more polluting than the banned blowers, pretty much defeating the purpose. EQAC (Environmental Quality Affairs Committee) is researching what other cities besides Claremont have done and hopefully will come up with some fresh ideas.

CITY HALL

For those of you who absolutely hate the design chosen for City Hall, here is sort of good news. We didn't really choose the design. We selected the architect recommended by the design committee with the understanding that the committee will work with the architect in improving what was presented, so there's still plenty of time to weigh in with your ideas.

EEL GRASS

We are finalizing the experts' report which lays out a new approach for the management of eel grass in the harbor, one based on the premise that while the harbor provides habitat for marine life it is also an active recreational boating harbor. Next step: a presentation to National Marine Fisheries, the proponent of the current program that has proved so onerous to dock owners.

BEACH SAND AND BACTERIA

Growing up, I followed my father's example on the beach. Go in the water, catch waves, get very cold, come in and lie directly on the hot sand which is the fastest way to get warm. Now I find that all this time I have been wallowing in bacteria. People involved in water testing have begun to focus on sand as a source of high bacteria counts and have done some analysis of dry sand. At one site, they noticed a gull had pooped. When they came back a day later, the bacteria from that one little dot had spread yards from the site, so maybe a towel isn't such a bad idea. And speaking of bird poop, when I was very young I loved running to the end of the Corona del Mar jetty, hurtling from one vast boulder to the next (picture the coming-down-the-mountain scene in *Dharma Bums*). I wanted to share that experience with my grandsons—not racing but at least hiking to the end of the jetty, but it was so slippery we turned back. There is so much guano on those rocks we may be able to start mining it one of these days. Talk about a yuk factor.

MORE ON THE DROUGHT

The California Department of Water Resources has warned that State Water Project Contractors are likely to receive as little as 15 percent of what they have requested for 2009, the second lowest initial allocation in the history of the State Water Project. This would change if we get a wet year, so don't pray for surf, pray for rain.

WHAT DO YOU THINK?

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