



Nancy Gardner

Council Member

Newsletter: April 2011

Newport Beach, California

City Contacts

City Hall
General Information
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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

COUNCIL MEMBER
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RUMOR

Remember the game Rumor—you whisper something to the person next to you, he repeats it to the person next to him and around you go until the last person says the message aloud—and it's not at all the same as what the first person said. Well, the same thing has happened with the library. As part of the evaluation of facilities in West Newport, it was proposed that the existing Balboa branch be closed AND (very important, that "and") be replaced with a new facility in the Marina Park community center. A version of this appeared in the Pilot, was picked up and passed on, and when it came out the other end, we were getting calls from the Today Show wanting to know why Newport was removing all books from all its libraries. So just in case you got that version . . . The city is **not** going to a print-less universe. What is being considered is whether a new site might better serve the community with more space for story time, crafts, study and, yes, books. Mayor Henn has had one meeting on the subject with residents, and there will be lots more public discussion before any decision is made.

RESPONSE TIMES

I can't think of anything scarier than to be awakened in the middle of the night by the sound of someone trying to get into the house. It did a lot for my ability to sleep soundly to learn that the average response time to an emergency call by our police department is under three minutes. In making calls, however, remember that breaking up a noisy party doesn't qualify as an emergency, no matter how early you have to get up the next day, so the response to that will depend on how many sub-three-minute calls intervene.

CdMRA ANNUAL MEETING

The Corona del Mar Residents Association and CdM Business Improvement District have their joint annual meeting at **Sherman Gardens April 20 starting at 5:00pm** for the tailgate party. There will be representatives from various city departments to answer questions as well as presentations by the Chief of Police, among others.

YOU WILL BUILD THIS NUMBER OF HOUSES

The Regional Housing Needs Assessment or RHNA (pronounced Reena) is a state requirement that a city's housing element must provide for future expected growth (forecast determined by the state) and affordable housing requirements (also determined by the state). The rehabilitation of substandard housing and urban infill projects are the kind of Smart Growth development we are being urged to do (particularly by the state), **yet** (and this will come as a tremendous surprise to those who follow state activity) a city gets no RHNA credit for that kind of development. The Association of California Cities, Orange County, has formed a RHNA work group of which I am part with the goal of addressing such inconsistencies. Something else I'm hoping we address—economic reality. A city with high land values and no vacant land has a hard time providing much of the required affordable housing. We don't want to send everything out to the Inland Empire, but if we can provide ten units in a nearby community instead of one unit in Newport, I would think that's a bigger benefit, particularly if the other community wants the addition. That may be way too sensible, however.

EMAIL

For fans of *Zen and the Art of Motorcycle Maintenance*, I am a romantic: I don't know how things work, I just expect them to, so I haven't a clue as to why a couple of emails haven't reached me. I read all my emails and respond to those addressed to me personally, so if you don't get an answer after a day or two, I'm not ignoring you. It is the vagaries of my computer. Please try again.

WHAT DO YOU THINK?

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