



# Nancy Gardner

Mayor Pro Tem

Newsletter: September 2011

Newport Beach, California

## City Contacts

**City Hall**  
**General Information**  
644-3309

<b>Departments</b>	<b>644-</b>
Administrative	3127
Building Dept	3275
City Clerk	3005
City Council	3004
City Manager	3001
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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## OUTSOURCING

Outsourcing is a big buzz word in government circles, some seeing it as a panacea for all budget issues. Our residents are financially conservative, but they also expect a high level of service, so when we consider outsourcing, we need to anticipate the downsides in service as well as the upside in savings. An easy one: parking meters. The private company could do it more cheaply, AND we also got an upgrade in the type of meters (which now accept credit cards) AND got an increase in revenue in addition to the savings. As for service, since the company's revenue is tied to meter production, it's in its interest to be diligent about any problems. It's not quite the same with tree trimming. In the old days, for example, if your ivy was choking a city tree, you got a note to trim it back. There's no financial impetus for the contractor to do this, so in this case we get savings, but we lose an element of care. It's important for us to remember that it's not just about the money.

## AND SPEAKING ABOUT FINANCES . . .

It's no secret that staff salaries and benefits are an issue, particularly pensions which will have a significant impact on city finances in coming years. The council has enunciated a compensation philosophy that proposes some fairly significant changes to rein in some of these expenses but which also gives us the tools to attract and retain top caliber employees. Change is always difficult, and there will be both angst and tension as we negotiate with the various employee groups, but it is important to institute these changes if we are to create a truly sustainable system.

## BEACH TOMATO

I had not heard of Beach Tomato. If I had, I probably would have thought it was a site to view bathing beauties, but not at all. It rates beaches, and this year Newport Beach was rated the Number One urban beach. I know for some of us old-timers the term *urban* creates a twinge, but hey, number one is number one, and listen to this: "With gloriously golden sand, epic mountain scenery and buzzing beachfront cafes, Newport manages to effortlessly blend the best of both worlds . . . a classic Cali beach—sun, sea, sand and city—long live the American beach dream . . . with long stretches of crystal waters and manicured beaches punctuated with piers worthy of couture catwalks." It's almost beach porn.

## AND HOW DO WE GET THOSE MANICURED BEACHES?

By picking up 100 tons of trash out of cans and 19 tons from beach cleaning this past year.

## MARINA PARK

There was a letter in the Pilot the other day with some misinformation about Marina Park. That's the future park on the bay, next to the American Legion. In the letter, it was stated that the sandy beach along the site will be lost because a guest marina is being built. Well, a guest marina is being built, but it is at one end, and there will be plenty of beach. Go to the city's web site, click on City Government, scroll to Current Projects, click Marina Park, and you will see the plan. Things have been at a standstill with the park because of lengthy discussions with the state about the tidelands boundary, but we seem to be on the verge of an agreement, and things should proceed at a better pace. Speaking of delays and parks, the Banning Ranch Conservancy's effort to overturn the Sunset Ridge Park EIR lost at the Superior Court level. They have appealed the decision which means more down time before those much-needed AYSO and Little League fields are constructed and available to our youth.

## MEDICAL MARIJUANA, OR SO MUCH FOR GOOD INTENTIONS

There is a ban in many cities, including Newport, on medical marijuana dispensaries. This is not because these areas have no compassion for those who legitimately benefit from usage. It's because there is so much abuse. A resident sent me *The Rolling Paper*, a 48-page booklet of ads for Orange County dispensaries. There are 110 listed (I counted about 130 regular pharmacies in the Yellow Pages). A quick glance at the ads: *Happy Hour. . . Free Fridays . . . Free Gram* (presumably from the Vargas girl in the nurse's uniform) . . . *Mid and End of Month Blowout Sale. . . Free T-shirt. . . Early Bird Special*. I understand wanting to cheer the ill up, but come on. I've never had my pharmacist offer me a discount if I picked up my prescription before 5:30 let alone a happy hour while we all popped our antibiotics.

## WHAT DO YOU THINK?

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