



Nancy Gardner

Mayor Pro Tem

Newsletter: October 2011

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	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

MAYOR PRO TEM

Nancy Gardner

City of Newport Beach
3300 Newport Blvd
Newport Beach, CA
92663

PHONE

949.644.3004

WEBSITE

www.nancygardner.org

© 2011 Gardner
All Rights Reserved

LEAFBLOWERS

The gasoline-powered leaf-blower ban goes into effect November 11 in all residential areas except for those HOAs that have opted out. Will a sylvan silence descend on the city as of that date? Probably not since getting the word out is a challenge, but the city is doing its best with mailings and posting information on its web page (www.newportbeachca.gov/leafblowers)

including a flyer in English and Spanish which can be downloaded. The flyer is also available at www.cdmra.org. Scroll down to November to find it.

BANNING RANCH

When we were going through the General Plan process, one of our outreach sections was on Banning Ranch. After first establishing the location of Banning Ranch—many residents had no clue as to its existence—option one was presented: to find funds for purchase, and then clean it up and preserve it as open space. This was a very popular proposal until the second option was presented: allow development on part of Banning Ranch, and in return, the developer would give half the land for open space and pay for the restoration. Some stood steadfast for option one, some dithered between the two, and others changed their position, feeling the second deal was too good to pass up. That last sentiment is what we have gotten from potential funders. With many worthwhile properties to purchase and with less money to do so, they have suggested the development deal is the best path for the city. Personally, I'm in the ditherers' camp. It would be terrific to see the area all retained as open space, but then I think of the potential \$200 million price tag—or even \$100 million—and what that money could do on the Gaviota Coast or some other area that is not a degraded oil field but still in a nearly natural state, and I wonder again whether the development deal isn't the sensible way to go. Meanwhile, the EIR is out, and you have until November 8 if you wish to comment. As for the open space option, the city is committed to following up viable funding leads if any appear.

AT LEAST MAKE IT HARD FOR THEM

As everyone knows, the state is generously allowing the counties to take some prisoners off its hands absolutely gratis—the counties don't have to pay a cent to get them! Since most county jails are full to bursting, this means the release of some who might not otherwise be released. Now while one would like to be optimistic and think that the salutary effect of confinement and then the pleasant surprise of early release would generate some sort of positive transformation, one must be realistic and realize that at least some will fall back into old habits. This means it's more important than ever to lock your car, to not leave computers and phones and the like in view. To remove temptation is a great way to help people resist it.

STAND UP

Not for the flag, although that's always a good thing to do, but for paddling. Stand-up paddling has become quite the thing—my new favorite activity—and now there will be a fun paddle to raise funds for cystic fibrosis. A fun paddle is like a fun run: some people race while others amble or, in this case, paddle leisurely. There will also be Back Bay tours and clinics. The event is set for Sunday, October 9, beginning at 8:30 am, at the Newport Aquatic Center. For more info, call 646-7725.

YES, IT DOES MAKE A DIFFERENCE

Over the years, a lot of effort and money has been spent to improve water quality. Is it worth it? Absolutely. Once again, Newport got excellent grades in Heal the Bay's annual beach water quality survey, and in another marker, we've seen a dramatic drop all along the coast over the last several years in areas that are closed for high bacteria readings.

WHAT DO YOU THINK?

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

EMAIL

ngardner@newportbeachca.gov