



Nancy Gardner

Mayor

Newsletter: March 2012

Newport Beach, California

City Contacts

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General Information
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Administrative	3127
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City Clerk	3005
City Council	3004
City Manager	3001
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Emergency Services	
Emergency	9-1-1
Fire Dept	633-3104
Police Dept	644-3717

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

Oasis Senior Center	
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CdM	673-2989
Main	640-4663

MAYOR

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THE NEW CITY HALL

The council was invited to the topping off ceremony at the new civic center site. We signed the last girder and watched as it was lifted up and tapped into place. While there, I checked out the parking structure which struck me as more welcoming than most—light and open. There have been complaints from some neighbors who do not like the parking structure lights, its color, the surfaces—basically anything about it which is understandable since they looked at open space for so many years. However, over seven million dollars were added to the project budget to protect those residents' view plane, and I hope this knowledge will ameliorate at least some of the complaints.

TRASH TALK

When it comes to trash, there are other issues besides outsourcing. In parts of CdM, the three Rs (ravens, raccoons and rats) have a field day. Our alleys are like one huge fast-food strip mall since most people keep their trash cans outside. Many of the cans don't have lids making it particularly easy for dining, but even those with lids, unless they fit tightly, are a minor challenge for clever-fingered raccoons. I don't begrudge our furry and feathered friends a little sustenance. After all, we've managed to eliminate most of their natural food sources, but unfortunately, their mothers never taught them any manners. They fling the packaging with the same gusto with which they forage, with the result that the alleys can get pretty messy. One of the things I've asked to be considered as we review our trash services is a way to improve in this area. I know, I know. Keeping the cans in the garage is an obvious solution, but if there's not room for a car, how could there be room for trash cans?

CORONA DEL MAR ENTRANCE

The Revitalization Committee presented its concept for the MacArthur/PCH area, a major entry point to the city and one that's pretty homely at this point. The concept involves moving the pinch point (where the three lanes become two) back to Avocado, widening the sidewalk and landscaping the street-side of the area. Simulations make it look very attractive. There is understandable concern about the traffic impacts of moving the pinch point, so we are looking into doing a temporary version to gauge real-life effects (as opposed to models and formulas).

PETS

Chickens: Just in case you missed it, we disappointed the fans of the Goldenrod Six and made no changes to the existing ordinance. If you want chickens, you need to live in Santa Ana Heights—or have neighbors that won't peach on you.

Puppies: The pet store in CdM is closing its doors. Russo's will be gone when its lease is up.

Dogs in general: Pick up, people. There are still some of you that don't. I'm a dog owner and inordinately fond of him, but remember that not everyone finds your animal as darling as you do which is why leash laws were invented.

TO GIVE OR NOT TO GIVE

We are one of the few cities with a budget for events. For years the process was willy-nilly—a few bucks here, some fee waivers there. When we added it up, we were surprised at the amount, so we formalized the process—setting a specific number in the budget and establishing the Special Events Advisory Committee to review applicants and make recommendations for council. The problem is that a number of events originally came to the city with the plea to help them in their early stages with the idea that once established they would be weaned. The weaning has never taken place, and for many of them, city funds are a major part of their budget planning. I've asked for a review of this issue. The timing is good. We're in the process of making the decisions for this year, so nobody will be immediately impacted if we decide to make some changes. And we may not. Upon review we may decide the current system is dandy.

ME AND THE MOVIE STAR

There was a women's conference in Newport recently, and I was asked to say a few words of welcome. I was then shepherded over to the actress Geena Davis who is a state appointee on women's matters where our photo was taken. Ms. Davis is close to six feet tall. I am five three. Ms. Davis was wearing platform heels. I was wearing flats. Ms. Davis looked like a goddess. I looked like—well, it's not very difficult to tell which of us is the movie star.

WHAT DO YOU THINK?

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

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