



# *Nancy Gardner*

Mayor



Newsletter: June 2012

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
Graffiti Hotline	3333
Harbor Resources	3034
Licenses	3141
Mayor	3004
Municipal Ops	3055
Public Info Office	3031
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Senior Services	3151
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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

*Nancy Gardner*

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#### WEBSITE

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## IT'S OPEN!

As of May 30, the Buck Gully trail is officially open. Accessible from dawn to dusk from both Poppy and 5th Avenue and San Joaquin Hills Road, the trail offers 3+ miles of hiking and biking trails surrounded by sage, sycamores and other native plants—an amazing natural environment in the middle of the city. The area is managed by the Irvine Ranch Conservancy which will be providing docent-led tours to observe birds and wild flowers as well as the occasional moonlit walk, but you don't have to wait for a docent. The trail is open to all bipeds (meaning dogs not allowed). Note of caution—I picked up a tick on my hike.

## IT'S A BIRD, IT'S A PLANE—YES, IT'S A PLANE

A few months ago, those who live along the coast were startled by the roar of low-flying fighter jets. It wasn't a terrorist attack, rather a memorial to a deceased veteran. The problem was that no one had notified the city that this was going to take place, so when people called the police, the department had no information. We spent several months pursuing the Navy to get some assurance that in the future the city would be notified, only to find out that the planes weren't Navy planes but belonged to the Marines. We will now climb up the Marine ladder to see if we can get a heads up next time.

## WHAT A BARGAIN—MAYBE NOT

I had a meeting in the Foothill Ranch area, and being a little vague about that part of the world I gave myself plenty of time to get there. Since it wasn't quite as much at the edge of civilization as I expected, I was early. Fortunately, the meeting was at the library, and even more fortunately, there were shelves of used books outside—a buck a bag. As someone who frequents our Friends of the Library bookstore and thinks that their prices (usually a dollar, occasionally two for a dollar) a great bargain, I was in the book equivalent of pig heaven. Marveling that there should be such bargains in the world, I quickly filled two bags and went, as directed, to the Friends bookstore to pay, only to be greeted by a closed door with a sign: "We are closed because you didn't volunteer." That's not a sign we see in Newport which says a lot about our library and our community.

## HOW TO BE A HAPPY (AS OPPOSED TO MAD) SCIENTIST

Study Tursiops truncatus. For those few of you who don't know Latin, the common name is Coastal Bottlenose Dolphin. Okay, I admit I didn't know that until a few weeks ago, either. Anyway, there is something called the Coastal Dolphin Survey Project, led by Dennis Kelly of OCC, and you and I can be part of it by reporting sightings of dolphins with the date, time, location, direction of travel and number of animals to [dolphinproject@hotmail.com](mailto:dolphinproject@hotmail.com). The more we know about these delightful creatures the more we can do to protect them. To learn more, go to [coastaldolphinsurveyproject.org](http://coastaldolphinsurveyproject.org).

## SEAC

For years, the city had a pattern of waiving fees for special events and providing some financial support. It was very informal, and then our new city manager thought to total it all up and found it was a considerable sum. New protocols were put in place. City costs would not be waived, and events that wanted city support had to meet a number of criteria and be ranked by SEAC (Do I have to spell everything out? Special Events Advisory Committee, a group of residents appointed by the council). We have just completed the exercise, and SEAC performed admirably, but it's a very flawed process. You have fundraisers for local schools competing against fundraisers for cancer treatment, both competing against marketing events like Restaurant Week and social/art events like Taste of Newport and the film festival. Weird. If it was up to me, I'd have the city get out of the business. Some events would survive, some wouldn't—capitalists of the world unite. The other council members didn't exactly jump on that band wagon, but they did agree that we need to look at the subject again, so we will have study session on it. Any ideas are welcome.

## 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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