



Nancy Gardner
Mayor



Newsletter: December 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
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Harbor Resources	3034
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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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***SURF CITY (AND NO, I DON'T MEAN
THAT PLACE ON THE OTHER SIDE OF
THE RIVER)***

I've always been surprised at how little attention surfing gets in Newport. Our neighbor to the north fought a ferocious legal battle just to call itself Surf City. We, on the other hand, seem to view the subject with a certain ennui, and yet we are the cradle of local board surfing. It was here that Duke Kahanamoku introduced board surfing, attracted by the waves breaking across the channel (before the East Jetty was built). Now, though, there's an effort to rectify this indifference and get in touch with another side of our aquatic roots. A group wants to erect a statue in our city to commemorate the Duke, not just for his surfing but for his daring channel rescue when a boat went down. The group wants to also recognize the other individuals that helped with the rescue and are proceeding with fundraising, approvals, etc.

MAYOR'S WALK

There was a nice turn out for the Santa Ana Heights walk. The highlight was two goats who walked very nicely on leashes. I highly recommend them as walking companions since unlike dogs they didn't feel the need to stop at every fire hydrant and fence post.

RESIDENTIAL DOCK FEES

Over the last two years the council has addressed the issue of fair market value for the private use of public waters. We adjusted mooring fees, and then those on commercial marinas, and now we are addressing residential docks. As a result of community input, there have been a number of changes to the original proposal (reducing the area for which fees are charged, removing indemnity requirements, extending the phase-in period, for example), and we will present the latest version on December 11, 4 pm, at the current—not the new—city hall where we will again take comments. The regular council meeting that evening will take place at new city hall.

TRASH

Most residents like our trash service, and what's not to like? Unlike most cities, households don't pay directly, the General Fund covers it. Any amount is picked up, and almost anything. However, when we began looking at all city costs, we decided there would

be no sacred cows, so trash service has come under the same scrutiny as other services. We had a study done, and I had hoped that study would be like a well-guided arrow, landing clearly and firmly either on maintenance of the status quo or outsourcing. Nope. It was about as wishy washy as could be. Outsourcing could be great—or not. It could save money—or not. So we are sending out RFPs to the waste management industry to see if that will provide any clarity. If the ultimate decision is to keep it in-house we still have decisions to make about automated trucks and perhaps some reasonable limitations on what can be discarded.

***HOW TO COMMUNICATE WITH YOUR
COUNCIL MEMBER***

I receive many emails from angry, frustrated people, and the emails themselves are as varied as their senders. Most are pretty polite. There's no mistaking the implication that I'm an idiot for having taken the position I did, but the writers are too well-mannered to come right out and say that. Then there are those who don't believe in beating about the bush and tell me I'm an idiot right off the ding dong. In both cases a good dialogue can actually take place. Threats are an entirely different thing. Usually, they take the form of, "If you don't do A, I will never vote for you, and I will do everything I can to see that nobody else does." It takes a great deal of restraint not to say, "Too bad, termed out, nya nya." It takes just as much restraint not to let it affect the outcome: I was planning on doing A, but if I do A, you're going to think it's because of your puerile threat and I don't want to give you that misguided satisfaction, therefore I will—hopefully I will still do A because it's the right thing but the threat makes it much harder. So if I may make a suggestion, while it's probably not the best form to call someone a name, it's way better than threatening them. Of course, a little Mary Poppins never hurts. You know, a spoonful of sugar . . .

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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