



Nancy Gardner

Council Member

Newsletter: March 2014

Newport Beach, California

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 - Economic Dev 3225
 - Graffiti Hotline 3333
 - Harbor Resources 3034
 - Licenses 3141
 - Mayor 3004
 - Municipal Ops 3055
 - Public Info Office 3031
 - Planning Dept 3200
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 - 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
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COMING UP THIS YEAR

There's always a lot going on in our city. In addition to what I highlighted last month:

- **SUNSET RIDGE AND MARINA PARK**—high visibility projects that are finally underway. Speaking of Marina Park, it's surprising how big the area is without the trailers. You don't really get a sense of it driving by. This will have a heavy marine orientation in terms of activities.
- **WEST NEWPORT COMMUNITY CENTER**—Although there will be no groundbreaking this year, we should decide on a location for a community center in West Newport. This would replace the one on 15th Street and include a basketball court as well as many of the amenities of the Oasis fitness center.
- **NEWPORT PIER**—After some discussion, it was decided to continue with a restaurant, so we should see the selection of a tenant and possibly construction.
- **LOWER CASTAWAYS**—Access to the bay is always welcome, and Lower Castaways should be open to the public soon for kayak and paddleboard launches as well as a hub for cyclists. Meanwhile, the Harbor Commission is working on the larger concept.
- **TREES**—The Parks, Beaches and Recreation Commission will be working on a review of our tree policies, and we have increased our tree budget so that we can plant more.
- **PLANS AND STUDIES**—We will have both an arts master plan and a bicycle master plan to provide a more holistic approach in those areas; the results of a parking study in Corona del Mar to help develop better integration of existing parking while minimizing impacts on residents; a proposed General Plan amendment to be voted on in November, and lots more including . . .

Mayor Hill has resurrected the idea of a water taxi which will be studied by the Harbor Commission. We have reviewed it before, and at that time, the conclusion was that it couldn't be done without city subsidies. If it's the same conclusion this time, then we will need to decide 1) if the city wants to subsidize transportation and 2) if we do, is a water taxi the best place for our money, or would there be greater parking and traffic benefits with some sort of ground transport like trams. The problem with both is our layout. For a tram system, you almost have to have two systems, one for each side of the bay, and for a water taxi, you've got to have a good number of boats because of the length of the harbor. We'll see what the Harbor Commission advises.

FLOATING DOCKS

Another Mayor Hill initiative is floating docks, small docks that can cluster a larger number of boats in a smaller space. The idea is to consolidate part of the mooring fields to provide more open water for harbor activities and to provide better facilities for mooring holders. Concerns expressed so far include water quality, view blockage and noise. Again, we'll see what the Harbor Commission advises.

LIFE GUARDS

Since there are still yard signs I'm assuming not everyone knows that we will not be outsourcing the CdM guards. After reviewing the proposals, there were no savings. I realize the process is uncomfortable since no one likes to be the subject of possible outsourcing, but the exercise is helpful in determining areas where the private sector is not the better option.

BLACKBALL

The PB&R Commission rejected the working group's proposal to change the blackball rules. It would have provided more hours at the Wedge for boards and body boards and have provided a new area for all day board surfing. The commission opted to leave things as they are with the possibility of the working group coming back at some future date with a new proposal.

WHAT DO YOU THINK?

Don't hesitate to contact me with ideas and opinions.

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