

## 2025 CRA CITIZEN OF THE YEAR – PRESS FACT SHEET

### Event Details

Carmel Residents Association (CRA) – Citizen of the Year Celebration – 28<sup>th</sup> Ceremony [www.carmelresidents.org/cras-citizen-of-the-year](http://www.carmelresidents.org/cras-citizen-of-the-year)

Please visit this CRA web page for the nomination criteria, history of this event, recent past programs agenda and our prior honorees.

**Date/Time:** Thursday April 10 – Doors open at 5:PM, 5:30 PM Program Begins, 6:30-7:30 PM Wine, tribute cake and finger foods provided by Fairytale Winery, Flaherty's, Village Corner and Edwins and Café Carmel.

**Location:** Carmel Woman's Club, SW Corner of 9<sup>th</sup> and San Carlos, Carmel-by-the-Sea, Ca 93921. This celebration is open to the public, as space allows.



### Our Honoree – Tom Parks Background

**Tom's History** associated with this Village Citizen recognition– a partial background:

- Born in Los Angeles, raised in the San Francisco and Monterey Bay area, Tom completed his education at University of California Berkeley, then served our Country in various writing/communication assignments in the US Army.
- Stepping back a bit, Tom's earliest passion for the live theater arts began in his childhood, at 7 years, in a trip to visit his grandmother where they attended live theater in Chicago. After his years in the service, this youthful spark for the performing arts set a path for his life that pulled him to Hollywood in the 1950's.
- In his years **working and writing in Hollywood and Television** well into the late 1970s, he has many great "stories to tell" and "names to drop" (*Including: Hope, Burns, Diller, Wayne, Davis, Benny, Burnett, Smothers, Tomlin, Hawn and more – with many being of the comedic leanings. Details available on request.*)

--And then Tom puts formal roots in Carmel--

- After his Hollywood years in his "second career" in the early 1980's Tom moved to Carmel, where he frequented and enjoyed in his childhood. He became fully engaged in our Community in leadership roles with **Monterey Alliance on Aging, Carmel Public Library Foundation (CPLF) and Carmel Residents Association.**



- As a writer-professional, he immediately engaged with the teams at our beloved Carmel **Harrison Memorial Library** – ultimately serving on the CPLF Board plus frequent charitable contributions. You can often find Tom a frequent visitor in our Library's Mystery section. Plus, he continues his support for literature by maintaining a shareable neighborhood book exchange outside his Carmel front gate too.

- As a local, Tom has **written, produced and directed over 26 Plays** that are mostly performed in our Village at the Cherry Center for the Performing Arts – with an all new production coming this May. These are sometimes semi-biographical, usually comedic and always entertaining – all with local actors and supporting behind-the-scenes professionals. (*a title listing available on request*)

- On the **Carmel Residents Association** – Tom served on the Board of Directors from the early 2000's to the early 2020's. He continues his support for the Association and its Mission, as a continued and significant contributor to CRA newsletters over many decades and his elevated role as the Editor of The Voice

– the 5/yr printed newsletter. His articles, local profiles and opinion pieces entertain, engage and sometimes triggers controversy. [www.carmelresidents.org/archives](http://www.carmelresidents.org/archives)

CRA honors Tom Parks, as a 35 year + extraordinary example of an engaged Carmel-by-the-Sea volunteer and leader with a legacy of passion and participation in the theater and literature – that is not done yet!

*Tom was notified of this today April 1<sup>st</sup> (no joke). For more insights or contacts that can provide more comments on Tom's life and times contact Nancy Twomey at [info@carmelresidents.org](mailto:info@carmelresidents.org) or [twomeyconnection@gmail.com](mailto:twomeyconnection@gmail.com).*

*Nancy can provide introductions to additional contacts for insights upon request.*