



Celebrating New Beginnings

LOOKING AHEAD TO THE NEXT 25 YEARS

The program will be a joint observance of the inauguration of our new mayor and city council, and the beginning of the next 25 years of the Carmel Residents Association. Come drink a toast to our new CRA board members along with our new mayor and council members at a meet-and-greet social event, Thursday, May 31st, at 5:00 pm at the Vista Lobos meeting room. We will enjoy a social hour with wine and light refreshments following the brief comments and introductions of our honorees. Outgoing Membership Chair, Kathy Fredrickson, will present our three new CRA board members: Kevin D'Angelo, Judy Henke and Sondra Rees. We will deeply miss our outgoing board members, Betty Dalsemer, Kathy Fredrickson and Roberta Miller for the joy, intelligence and dedication they brought to our board.

Board member and former Mayor Charlotte Townsend will toast the incoming mayor of Carmel-by-the-

Sea, Jason Burnett. CRA vice-president Michael LePage will present Ken Talmage, reelected to the city council, and President Barbara Livingston will present our newest member of the Carmel city council - Victoria Beach. Former Mayor Ken White will introduce our new City Administrator, Jason Stilwell.

We hope to have the pleasure of introducing a Carmel High School graduate, the winner of the Carmel Residents Association \$1500 vocational scholarship. We will also be presenting certificates of appreciation to Lloyds Shoes and Carmel Bay Company for their longevity of service to our community.

Let's all get together on May 31st as we celebrate our new beginnings – with hope and joyful anticipation.

INVESTING IN OUR FUTURE AND GIVING BACK TO OUR YOUTH— THE CRA SCHOLARSHIP FUND

The Carmel Residents Association is fortunate to have members who give generously beyond their yearly dues. The Board decided that portions of this money should be used to give back to our community. One of these ideas was to create a \$1500 scholarship award given to a Carmel High student, which will be awarded this school year and hopefully each year into the future.

The recipient of the scholarship award will be a promising civic-minded student with qualifications based on criteria created by the CRA Board and help from faculty and administrators at Carmel High in the selection of the student. The CRA is looking forward to meeting this student recipient sometime before graduation.

SCHOLARSHIP COMMITTEE
Dick Stiles, Dick Flower & Ken White



CRA New Board Members
Kevin D'Angelo, Judi Henke, Sondra Rees

BEST WISHES ! TO SUE McCLOUD

The Board of Directors of the Carmel Residents Association sends its best wishes to retiring Mayor Sue McCloud for a future filled with happy days, good health, and just enough challenging adventures to keep life interesting.

Meeting

THURSDAY • MAY 31
Time: 5:00 p.m.
Location: Vista Lobos Meeting Room
(on Torres between 3rd and 4th)
"New Beginnings"





Barbara Livingston

WHAT'S AT THE HEART OF THE CRA?

Past presidents reflect on community involvement at its best.

What is at the heart of the CRA? It is a deep commitment to community involvement and fostering greater social awareness and connection. Over the past 25 years, the CRA has advocated strongly for the preservation of our village character. But what makes the heart of the CRA beat is the vision and hard work of all the past presidents and their dedicated board members. We asked past presidents to highlight the most significant contributions during their tenure. The following is a sampling of some of those highlights.

SKIP LLOYD 1988-89



We founded CRA because it looked as if the election of Clint Eastwood, a reaction against the preceding strongly pro-resident administration and the 1984 general plan it had enacted, could threaten the

residential values of Carmel-by-the-Sea. Clint's election produced a circus-like atmosphere; and, at first, seemed a little out of control, with its three councilmember impenetrable majority. So we were very uneasy. I helped found CRA and served as an early president because a strong, well-organized voice for the residential point of view was critical at that point. No organization existed for this. Clint, a smart man, eventually perceived the residents' strength and his tenure, on the whole, was moderated. CRA can take some credit for this. For example, I remember clearly one long planning commission hearing on a beautiful Saturday afternoon at Carpenter Hall. The subject was the proposed wholesale revision of the general plan. The hall was full to the brim for the "open mike" session. Members of the CRA were leading the way, its members dissecting the proposals, provision by provision, in a well-organized presentation. Clint peeked in. I think he sized things up in that instant.

It has taken courage, tenacity, intelligence, and passion to protect our village character year after year while offering thoughtful guidelines for the future. Beth Wright

BARBARA BROOKS, 1989-90



The CRA bought two benches for the mini park at the post office. Leon Panetta Day and Citizen of the Year annual events began – thanks to Clayton Anderson. We saw to it that a contractor was fined

\$23,650 for destroying a 100-foot pine tree. We lobbied for strong transient rental, tree, and house-size ordinances. Our membership topped 600, becoming the largest citizen group in Carmel ever. The CRA began the journey to defeat the Hatton Canyon Freeway. Skip Lloyd formed the Hatton Canyon Coalition, and CRA joined the fight. Elected to the city council, I was able to change the General Plan language to limit road construction within our sphere of influence. These efforts, along with so many others, led to the ultimate defeat of the freeway in the canyon.

BETH WRIGHT, 1992-94



1993 was a great year to be in a leadership role at the CRA with all of its challenges and all of its rewards. Our members offered their support in the passionate campaign against Measure

H (the rezoning ordinance) – losing by only a swing vote of seven in the historic skirmish to prevent the zoning change that increased the impact of tourist-oriented activities on the residential quality of life.

We honored Skip Lloyd and Noel Mapstead as Co-Citizens of the Year for their valiant efforts in preventing the Hatton Canyon Freeway; and we paid tribute and presented certificates to resident-serving businesses under the same ownership in Carmel-by-the-Sea for 25 years or more.

To all those who have aligned themselves to these endeavors throughout time: my CONGRATULATIONS! What a great job we have all done to make the Carmel Residents Association an organization of stature in our community.

MARY CONDRY, 1997-98



My main memory is the pleasure in being able to interact and work with some of the most caring, bright and engaged members of our community. Our main goal was building cohesiveness and appreciation of

our very unique, special village by the sea. We planned and executed group events aimed at allowing our fellow Carmelites to have fun, get to know one another and weave the social fabric of our heritage, present time and future together. We truly do not live in the "real world," but in a small paradise that we cherish. I am forever grateful to be a part of our fine Carmel Residents Association.

SUZANNE PABOOJIAN, 1998-99

We held a series of board retreats and developed the mission statement, defining our purpose: *The Carmel Residents Association is committed to the protection and enrichment of the traditional quality of life in*



Carmel-by-the-Sea and the preservation of its heritage and natural beauty through education, community activities and advocacy.

Katy Lewis, owner of La Boheme with her husband Alan, and I

forged a wonderful working relationship when she was president of the Carmel Business Association, a forerunner of the present Chamber. We identified the shared values of residents and businesses; and advocated mutually beneficial positions before the city council. Prior to that time, the relationship of the two groups had been contentious.

Finally, our most interesting program was a look at what Carmel would be like in the future, by a panel of some of the most creative thinkers in town, including architect John Thodos, writer Bob Campbell, founding president and historian Jim Holliday, and past president David Maradei. Three of those four wonderful minds are gone. Thodos, the architect, really gave us an eye-popping vision of the future in town: no cars!

SHIRLEY HUMANN, 1999-2000



During my term we celebrated the twelfth anniversary of the CRA. I was asked by Barbara Livingston to coordinate the event, including determining the type of awards to present.

Beth Wright was my assistant in helping with the program. It was Beth who came up with the idea of giving out bronze pinecones sculpted expressly by CRA member and Carmel artist Eleen Auvil. These bronze sculptures are now cherished works of art. The two of us and other committee members decided to bestow the awards based on pre-set criteria, primarily on service to the community over a period of years. We had our program at the La Playa Hotel.

MELANIE BILLIG, 2000-01



2000 was especially active for the CRA. The city council election centered then, as it does today, on the preservation of Carmel's unique heritage and character. The CRA spoke out vigorously at council

meetings about the homogenization of our business district, the increase in absentee owners, and the demolition of our cottages and their replacement by "trophy mansions." CRA strongly supported the Design Traditions Project, which was finally adopted by the council.

To preserve Carmel's cottages, CRA enlisted the help and support of the California Coastal Commission and the State Historic Preservation office. The executive directors of each organization came to speak at our monthly meetings. Our goal for the year was to bring in as many significant speakers as we could to talk about major issues facing our village.

MONTE MILLER, 2001-02



The main thrust while I was president was to keep our traditions going. This included Citizen of the Year, Candidates Forum, August BBQ, interesting monthly general meetings and Dines Out at our local

restaurants. In addition, I encouraged our board members to attend the city commission meetings. Roberta and I started regularly attending both the city council and the Planning Commission meetings. I felt that the CRA needed to insure that our village character was being properly cared for. We made a point of speaking out when necessary to protect our excellent municipal codes. I just kept the CRA going for the next group of leaders.

ROBERTA MILLER, 2006-08



During my tenure, the board focused on advancing the CRA's positive image in the community, raising awareness of our accomplishments and participating in city governance. It took a boatload of

talent to chart a course, and everyone had to row with the oars they had. Merrily, we paddled hard, finding ways to work together for the betterment of Carmel. We stayed the course, advocating for preservation of village character and maintenance of our natural environment. Our best achievement was teamwork. We kept the boat afloat, heading in the right direction and avoiding the perfect storm. Just a drop in the bucket, but others will follow to fill it up.

BARBARA LIVINGSTON, 2009-12

Reflecting on our history as a socially and politically active organization, I have to say that resilient is probably the word best used to define the Carmel Residents Association. We keep reinventing ourselves year after year with new presidents, new directors, new themes, new challenges, and new ways to help enrich the economic, cultural and environmental quality of life in our village. Who will add their names to the illustrious list of presidents? We will find out in early June when a new slate of officers will be elected. But for me, I could not be more proud than to add my name to the bottom of the list of past presidents.

Thank you CRA members for your good will and encouragement during my tenure. And, of course, thanks to our board of directors. What a diverse group they are – each one added a unique and special skill so necessary to make these last three years full and successful for the CRA. You only have to have read the CRA News to see how much we have contributed to the community at large. The next 25 years will be challenging,

Jim Holliday



Bust by Belinda Vidor Holliday.

Since this is the 25th Anniversary Edition of the CRA Newsletter, it seems an opportune time for this Profile column to remember one of the founders

of our organization:

not only one of the founders but perhaps the charismatic inspiration for the very existence of the CRA. Members and long-time residents still speak the name of this energetic, enthusiastic activist and world-class historian with respect and fondness.

Jim Holliday was a tall, handsome man; he was imposing both physically and intellectually. To meet him for the first time was an “experience,” both startling and daunting. His eyes seemed to demand, “Tell me more, I want to know about you.”

Hailed as one of the greatest California historians for his seminal works, *The World Rushed In and Rush for Riches: Gold Fever and the Making of California*, he also authored numerous essays, criticisms, bibliographies on the culture and texture of the past and future of the Golden State. All this and still he made time to nurture, protect, and cultivate his home village through the CRA.

Jim was a celebrity and didn't know it, and would have vehemently denied the characterization. Even with his booming voice and extravagant gestures he was essentially a modest man. At the same time he was a bigger-than-life presence.

Jim was not only a celebrated best-selling writer and historian but was the director of the renowned Bancroft Library on the campus of the University of California, Berkeley, as well as Director of the



Oakland Museum. For many years he held the executive directorship of the California Historical Society.

It is a near impossibility to chronicle the extent of Jim's accomplishments. A man of great stature, he was a thoughtful, compassionate advocate of the underclass, an eminent intellectual, a family man and devoted husband and father.

It took Jim three decades to write *The World Rushed In*. Every word was spelled out on a standard Royal typewriter. It was worth the wait, for as soon as the book was published the critics and public hailed it a spectacular achievement. In 2009 the State of California honored Jim by naming the Rare Book Room at the California State Library, Sacramento after him. His widow, Belinda Vidor Holliday, unveiled a bust of her husband at the ceremony. Belinda remains an active member of the CRA. Jim died at 81 at his Carmel home in 2006.

For those interested in the history of California one need only to Google “J.S. Holliday” to find over 500,000 references to this passionate writer, speaker, administrator and contributor to the civilized, enlightened life of the State of California and this tiny village of Carmel-by-the-Sea.



TIME TO CELEBRATE CRA's 25th Anniversary Gala

Invitations have been mailed to all CRA members for the CRA 25th Anniversary Gala, which will be an elegant and festive night to remember, to be held on Monday, May 21st, 2012.

Mission Ranch is generously providing both barns for the CRA's use, so a cocktail hour with hors d'oeuvres will begin at 6:00 pm in the Patio Barn, with complimentary wine (there will be a no-host bar for other libations), and a fabulous show, put together by the incomparable Tom Parks. This will start the evening on a happy note. A seated, three-course dinner with wine will follow, including a special celebratory dessert. All of this, and elegant decorations embellishing the 25th anniversary theme and CRA's influence on Carmel's beauty, have been planned by a hard-working event committee.

This event promises to be a very special evening filled with fun, time for reminiscences, camaraderie, good food and beverages, and the introduction of CRA's past presidents so we can acknowledge how important their contributions have been to help keep Carmel unique.

Tickets for the Gala are \$65 per person for CRA members. “Patron” tickets are available to all members at \$100 per person, if you wish to help defray the costs of the event. CRA members may bring one non-CRA guest at the Patron ticket price of \$100 per person.

If you haven't received your invitation and would like to attend, please call Carol Hilburn (626-9369) because space is limited.





Community CALENDAR

WHO NEEDS A RIDE TO OUR 25TH ANNIVERSARY PARTY?

Must call Kathy by May 18th: 262-4245

■ CRA 25TH ANNIVERSARY PARTY

Monday, May 21st. Reservations only. See article.

■ CRA GENERAL MEETING

Thursday, May 31st, 5:00 p.m.
"Celebrating New Beginnings"
Vista Lobos (Torres w/side btwn 3rd and 4th)

■ BEACH CLEANUP

Saturday, May 26th, 10:00 a.m. - noon
Meet at the foot of Ocean Avenue
June 23, July 28, August 25

■ CITY COUNCIL MEETING

Tuesday, May 1st., 4:30 p.m.
City Council Chambers

■ CRA SUNSET BEACHFIRE PARTY!

Date: Sunday, June 3rd, 7:45-9:15pm.

■ CITY'S 10TH ANNUAL INDEPENDENCE DAY PARTY

Wednesday, July 4th, noon till 3:00pm
Devendorf Park. CRA will participate this year.
Let's volunteer together! Please call Kathy at 262-4245.

■ FOREST THEATER MOVIE NIGHT

CRA sponsors "Singin' in the Rain"
Tuesday, July 10th. See article.

■ CRA ANNUAL FIESTA IN THE FOREST

Thursday, August 23rd, 5:30pm
Invitations will be mailed.

■ CITY COUNCIL SUMMER MEETINGS

Tuesday, June 5th, July 3rd,
August 7th and September 11th
All meetings at 4:30 p.m.
City Council Chambers

CRA Sept-Oct News will be published 2nd week of September

■ CARMEL'S 52ND ANNUAL SAND CASTLE CONTEST

On a Sunday in September (TBA). Want to volunteer? Call Kathy in August: 262-4245

ONGOING CITY MEETING DATES:

All held in City Council Chambers, Monte Verde between Ocean and 7th. Check with City Hall for updates. <http://ci.carmel.ca.us/>

City Council, 1st Tues., 4:30 p.m.

Forest and Beach Commission,

1st Thurs., 1:30 p.m.

Planning Commission, 2nd Wed., 4 p.m.

Community Activities and Cultural

Commission, 2nd Tues., 9:30 a.m.

Historic Resources Board, 3rd Mon., 4 p.m.

Library Board of Trustees, 4th Wed., 9 a.m.

Please see the CRA's website for the schedule of meetings and events. www.carmelresidents.org

Council meeting TV broadcast: the Sunday after the meeting, 8:00 a.m.-noon, Channel 26.

FILM IN THE FOREST



While CRA members, guests, visitors and members of the community at large relax under a hopefully clear, starry sky at the Forest Theater, filmgoers will be treated to the perennially popular MGM musical "Singin' in the Rain" starring Gene Kelley, Debbie Reynolds and Donald O'Connor.

The CRA is sponsoring this film in support of the Forest Theater Guild, a non-profit organization that has kept the historic theater alive as a community theater with adult and youth-oriented theatrical performances and the popular Films in the Forest summer series. "Singin' in the Rain" will show at 8:30pm or at dusk on Tuesday, July 10th. Doors open at 6:30pm, and guests are encouraged to bring either a picnic supper or buy local beer and wines and fresh organic food at the Forest Theater Guild's concession stand. Evenings can be chilly, so bring cushions, blankets – and whatever it takes to make your viewing pleasurable.

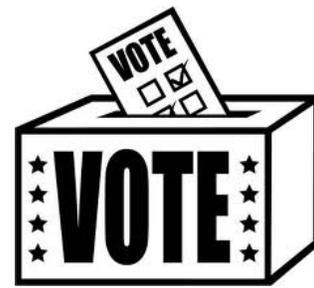
At approximately 8:15pm, CRA Board member Tom Parks will introduce the film and recount his memories of the production, the stars and other Hollywood lore. Bring your singing voice so we can sing along with Gene, Debbie and Donald as they cheerfully entertain us on the screen. One-price tickets at \$7.00 will be available at the gate on the night of the screening.

CRA members may request a pair of free tickets by writing CRA, Box 13, Carmel, 93921. Please write "Film in the Forest" on the front of your envelope, and include a self-addressed stamped envelope.



TUESDAY, JULY 10TH "SINGIN' IN THE RAIN"

Forest Theater - Mountain View at Santa Rita Gate opens at 6:30pm; screening approximately at 8:30pm
Tickets: \$7.00 available at the gate.



!!! CONGRATULATIONS !!!

The editorial board of the CRA NEWS congratulates the candidates in the April 10th municipal election for reviving the election night celebration in a venue large enough to accommodate it. In view of our expressions of regret in our last newsletter about its languishing in recent years, the selection of the Sunset Center lobby for a post election celebration was very much appreciated.

CRA SUNSET BEACHFIRE PARTY

Members, you are invited to enjoy a sunset at Carmel Beach together.

Can anyone remember the last time we did this? Did we sing "The Abalone Song?" This may be our first beach gathering of the 21st century. Gather at the foot of the 10th Avenue stairs on Sunday, June 3rd. Bring your own drinks and a chair or blanket. Snacks will be provided by CRA. We'll begin at 7:45 pm, enjoying a fire using Tom Leverone's fire basket, a practical container that leaves our beach practically pristine. The sunset is at 8:27 pm. Bring your camera, unless it's foggy. Oh, well. The fire will be extinguished by 9:15 p.m. and we'll all be back in our cottages before you can say, "Where's the charcoal?"

Oh, and if you would rather not be down on the sand, there is space just off the Scenic pathway that will allow you to stay up there – just south of the 10th Avenue stairs. No alcohol is allowed in that area.

Important: We'll need a count (large groups need a city permit), so please RSVP to Kathy, 262-4245. Leave a message or email kathyfred@att.net.



Member SURVEY RESULTS

As promised, here's what we learned from your responses to the 12-question survey in the last Newsletter. Ready?

VOLUNTEERS? We'll start with CRA volunteering for community events. Overwhelmingly positive comments. Would you volunteer? "Yes!" So, be watching for opportunities offered, starting within this newsletter.

MEETING TOPICS? Suggestions for meeting topics included inviting the city administrator, fire and police, and commissioners to give regular updates. The suggestion was also made to ask famous Carmel residents for their stories, local historians for their perspective, and experts on timely issues (regional water, local housing market, gathering the needs of residents, senior issues, "greening" of Carmel). Many would like to have regular socials after the meetings.

ACTIVITIES? Suggestions for more activities brought lots of approval for those suggested on the survey, with a few additions, like tours of Ft. Ord, Point Lobos, the Wastewater Plant, and even the Monterey Movie Tour bus. You'll see new additions to our calendar soon.

TIME TO SERVE? No one admitted an interest to serving on the board. Guess we'll have to make it more exciting and

inviting. Perhaps shorter terms? Perhaps standing committees to get you involved? We'll save that for another survey!

Most respondents are active as volunteers in our community – no surprise there!

LUNCH & DINNER? Next, CRA Dines Out. Most of us agree that it is well planned and well done. Maybe occasionally drawing your table number from a basket, which was done regularly a few years back, would make it nicer for newer members. Lots of members would like to add a "CRA is Out to Lunch" occasionally. Some added restaurants included Tommy's Wok, RG Burgers (ah, perhaps a picnic?), China Delight, Andre's Bouchee, Portabella, Merlot's...so many good restaurants, so little time.

*Thank you to all who responded!
Your board is already making new plans.*

In Memoriam

RICHARD WOODWARD

DONATIONS IN MEMORY OF:
Zaza Skidmore
from Dick & Ramona Andre

Louis Ungaretti
from Elena Ungaretti

Favorite PLACES

Walking by the Twigery on 7th Ave between Dolores and Lincoln, you might think it's a combination floral and garden store, but once you walk in you realize that it is so much more: it is truly an art gallery. The artist is Michael Merritt, AIFD – American Institute of Floral Designers with Laureate status. Michael and his wife Cheryl moved to Carmel from Laguna Beach about five years ago with retirement on their minds; after all, they have been in the flower business for

40 years. But walking down the street one day Michael saw an empty storefront and knew that it was the perfect spot for a florist, so the Twigery was opened in July of 2009. It is a full-service shop: weddings, funerals, arrangements or single stems, indoor plants, outdoor plants, silk arrangements, and gifts. But whatever you come in for, know that the care and attention to detail on even the smallest purchase is exceptional. Michael is truly a visionary floral artist.

WHAT IS CRA ALL ABOUT?

The Carmel Residents Association is committed to the protection and enrichment of the traditional quality of life in Carmel-by-the-Sea and the preservation of its heritage and natural beauty through education, community activities and advocacy.

BECOME A MEMBER!

It's easy to become a member of the Carmel Residents Association.

- Visit us online:
www.carmelresidents.org
- or email us:
carmelresidents@gmail.com
- or call us: **626-1610**

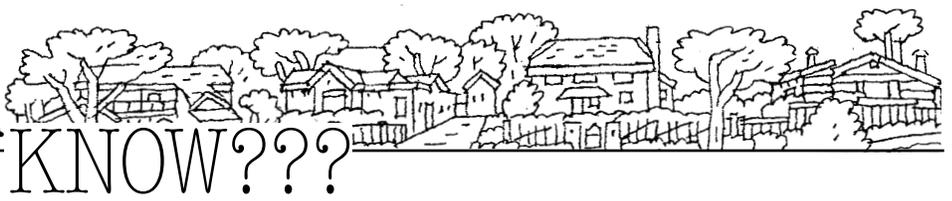
BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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James Emery, Treasurer	624-8575
David Banks, Publicity	624-0317
Betty Dalsemer	620-1514
Richard Flower, Archivist	624-9237
Kathy Fredrickson, Membership	262-4245
Francis P. "Skip" Lloyd	624-5096
Roberta Miller, Programs	620-0532
Tom Parks	625-9094
Richard Stiles, Meeting Logistics	626-0325
Barry Swift	625-1426
Charlotte Townsend	624-0780
Ken White	624-4538

CRA NEWSLETTER TEAM

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Dines Out	Kathleen and Barry Swift
Editorials	Guest writers
President's Message	Barbara Livingston
Favorite Places	
Spotlight on Members	
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Old Carmel	Richard Flower
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	James Emery
Proof Reader	Mary Condry
Email Manager	Dick Dalsemer
Post Office Distribution	Diane and Fred Siegel
Illustrations	Kelly Steele
Design & Production	Bonny McGowan
Copy Editor	Sarah McGowan
Beach Cleanup Coordinators	Helen and Mark d'Oliveira

did you



WHAT MAKES YOU ELIGIBLE TO JOIN THE CRA? IT'S SOMETHING CALLED SPHERE OF INFLUENCE...

The Board of Directors recently clarified the eligibility requirements for membership in the CRA. Our bylaws state "Regular members shall be full- or part-time residents who rent or own property within Carmel-by-the-Sea or its sphere of influence." Although "sphere of influence" may seem ambiguous, it actually isn't, having been specifically defined in city documents. Many believe that its eastern boundary is Highway One. Not so; it goes to Hatton Canyon behind Carmel High School and includes Carmel Woods, Hatton Fields, the areas immediately north and south of the High School, Mission Fields and Carmel Point. In other words,

it extends north to Pescadero Canyon, east to Hatton Canyon, and south to the Carmel River.

EASY DROP OFF IN CARMEL FOR HAZARDOUS WASTE!

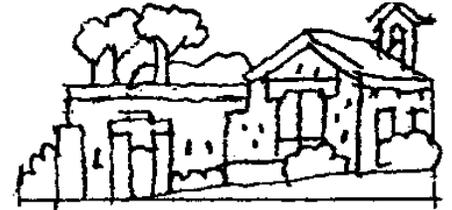
You can leave your old batteries, CDs and DVDs at City Hall. The Council representative to the Monterey County Landfill drops these items off at the hazardous waste collection site.

THE SHELVES ARE ALMOST BARE!

The Monterey County Food Bank's shelves are almost empty. We all know of someone affected by the economy. Please send a check for as little as \$10 or as much as you can afford to: Monterey County Food Bank, 815 West Market St., Room 5, Salinas, CA. 93901.

HERE'S YOUR OPPORTUNITY TO VOLUNTEER FOR CONCOURS ON THE AVENUE

On Thursday, August 16th, Carmel-by-the-Sea will host the world famous Concours d'Elegance Car Tour on our Ocean Avenue. Locals interested in volunteering as Car Hosts for this event are asked to contact Ken White at 624-4538 for more information. Our community needs to put our best efforts toward this international car event.



CARMEL RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION

Post Office Box 13
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The CRA Board wishes to assure our members that we do not sell, trade, lend or in any other way share our mailing list with any organization or company. This list is held in the strictest confidence for our organization's use only.



Raising Revenues for the City

A funny thing happened on the way to the municipal election this year. For the first time in living memory, there appears to be a widespread consensus that Carmel needs additional revenue to carry on its basic civic functions and preserve the character of the village. The candidates did not shy away from the bad news that they will probably have to seek additional revenue through tax increases. In an era of anti-tax rhetoric, that is a remarkable thing. Why did it happen?

Carmel faces some critical challenges. Some of the challenges come from a growing recognition that the path we have followed over the past few years is simply not sustainable. In some cases the recognition stems from an acknowledgement that we cannot continue to permit our infrastructure to deteriorate if we want to prosper and enjoy the benefits of living in an exceptional town. In other cases, we have become keenly aware of our looming unfunded liabilities – principally, a mountain of employee retirement and healthcare benefits – that we can no longer ignore or kick down the road.

We've gone about as far as we can go – perhaps too far – in cutting expenses. City staffing has been cut almost in half over the past decade, and there's no fat left to cut in our personnel budget. We must diligently seek new savings where we can find them, but also face the fact that savings alone cannot meet our fiscal needs.

The proposed budget for fiscal year 2012/13 shows a fragile balance between revenues and expenditures, but deficits grow in later years. Prudence requires additional annual revenue of \$1.5 to \$2.5 million to cover the projected deficits.

Failing to obtain additional revenue has a serious downside. Our infrastructure – the streets, buildings, beach, seawalls, and the like – will continue to deteriorate. There comes the inevitable point at which failure to halt the deterioration through relatively modest expenditures will require major rehabilitation at a much greater cost. With the past cuts in city employment, we have come to the point where we need to hire a few critical skills. Important functions currently cannot be performed, or are performed by an overworked staff that cannot give adequate attention to problems.

IN ORDER TO RAISE THE NECESSARY MONEY, AS WELL AS MAKING THE BURDEN MORE EQUITABLE AND POLITICALLY TOLERABLE, WE NEED A BLEND OF ADDITIONAL REVENUE SOURCES.

Additional funds are needed to reduce our accumulated legal liabilities for employee retirement and health benefits. We've already made necessary reductions in benefits for new employees, but we still need to adopt a sound plan for the gradual funding of liabilities incurred in the past.

Any increased tax imposes a burden on someone, and different taxes hit different classes of taxpayers – residents, businesses, and visitors. In order to raise the necessary money, as well as making the burden more equitable and politically tolerable, we need a blend of additional revenue sources.

An obvious candidate is an increase in the TOT (Transient Occupancy Tax). This has the advantage of raising money from visitors. An increase should be on the order of two percent, which would put the tax at the same level as some other Peninsula cities.

Another candidate is an increase in the sales tax, at least by one percent. This hits every class of taxpayer. It has the advantage of raising money from short-term visitors, who often visit without paying a "fair" share for the services from which they benefit (e.g., clean and safe streets). A modest increase would generally be acceptable to people spending money in Carmel, and would not put Carmel out of line with most of the other nearby cities.

Increased property tax is a consideration, but past attempts to raise such revenue

have been problematic. Remember the small assessment for ambulance service that failed to garner voter support?

The most controversial new source of revenue would probably be paid parking. However, it could potentially raise a lot of money, which would flow entirely to city coffers. It could be aimed primarily at visitors, with residents and businesses granted special rates. Unfortunately, in the eyes of many, it suffers from the disadvantage of adversely altering the historic character of the village.

The new mayor and city council face a tough task in formulating additional taxes and gaining voter acceptance. Choosing the right blend of taxes will undoubtedly require careful analysis and widespread inclusion of stakeholders in the decision process. The underlying theme should be that "we are all in this together," and that a solution to our fiscal woes is in everyone's best interest. No one benefits from a crumbling city infrastructure and inadequate city services.