



the VOICE

OF THE CARMEL RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION

CELEBRATING 29 YEARS OF COMMUNITY SERVICE

MARCH ■ APRIL 2016

CRA's Centennial Series "RELIVING OUR HISTORY"

PART II: THE EXTRAORDINARY LIFE OF ONE OF CARMEL'S FIRST ARTISTS: JANE GALLATIN POWERS

The life of Jane Gallatin Powers, an important figure in the early history of Carmel, is a "riches to rags" story. She was born in Sacramento into a family headed by her father Albert Gallatin whose wealth derived from the Gold Rush. She became a San Francisco debutante and a member of the city's high society. She travelled to the great art centers of Europe and developed an impassioned desire to become an artist. After studying art in San Francisco, she became a successful painter of portraits, landscapes and still lifes.

Jane married Frank Powers, a young attorney who was becoming a successful land speculator. Jane and her husband began acquiring land in Carmel and, by 1902, owned over 75% of what is now Carmel-by-the-Sea. That year Jane and Frank, with their three daughters, Madeleine, Polly, and Dorcas Jane, and their son, Gallatin, moved to Carmel. They made their home in a rustic log cabin built on the sand dunes near what is now the gate to Pebble Beach. While Frank worked with Frank Devendorf to launch the Carmel Development Company, Jane hosted lauded artists and writers of the day and San Francisco socialites in the Powers' beachside home.

Jane refurbished an old barn on their property to use as a studio. It was, in fact, the first artist's studio to be created in Carmel. She welcomed other artists to that studio and invited William Merritt Chase to teach his summer school classes in her garden. She became a founding member of the Arts and Crafts Club, the precursor to the Carmel Art Association.

After Frank Powers died in 1920, Jane set sail for Paris with her three youngest children. Establishing art studios in Paris, Rome and Capri, she switched from American Impressionism to European Modernism. Her portraits and Capri scenes were exhibited at the Salon des Independants and Salon des Tuileries in Paris where her work won acclaim.

Jane's income was sharply reduced by the stock market crash of 1929, beginning the meager financial straits of the rest of her life. She was living in Rome at the onset of World War II and was no longer able to receive even the small allowance that remained. Communication with her family in America became impossible. Eventually her grandson, then a U.S. Army medic, established contact. He found her living a near-starvation existence in a tiny apartment. Jane died soon after her grandson's visit.

In 1981, dozens of her oil paintings were discovered, sight unseen for almost forty years. In succeeding years, her paintings have been shown occasionally in retrospective exhibits of California artists. In 2003, an exclusive exhibition of her work was hung in the then Governor's mansion in Sacramento, the building that had been the Gallatin family home.

On March 17th, Part II of the CRA's Centennial Series will feature Erin Lee Gafill, Jane's great great granddaughter, recalling this remarkable woman's life and art. Her presentation will include selections from the over 100 photographs and paintings, accumulated during more than twenty years of research.



Jane Gallatin Powers



Erin Gafill

Erin Lee Gafill is an award-winning California painter, fifth-generation artist, and artist member of the Carmel Art Association. She is the author of *Drinking From a Cold Spring: A Little Bit of Hope*. She maintains an art studio, Studio One, at the Village Shops in Big Sur.

The program will begin at 5:00 PM in Carpenter Hall at Sunset Center. The program is free and open to the public. An informal wine tasting hour will follow the program.

In January, Part I of CRA's Centennial Series attracted a standing-room-only audience. We recommend an early arrival.

THURSDAY • MARCH 17TH
GENERAL MEETING

Time: 5:00 pm
Location: Carpenter Hall
at Sunset Center
Mission Street
Free and Open to the Public



Barbara Livingston

1915 CARMEL AS THE PINE CONE SAW IT*

“The beautiful beach of pure white silicone sand, with the 52 acres of sand dunes, is a playground for the children, and resting place for the nerve weary. The 400-acre pine forest, with its deep carpet of pine needles, furnished all the balsamic odors of the sierras. Fishing abounds, in the river for trout and steelhead, and in the bay for all kinds of seafood fish. The bathhouse on the beach furnishes all the appliances for surf bathing. Carmel has a well-established moving picture theater.

More than 60 percent of the residents of the village are devoting their time on work related to the aesthetic arts. College teachers, artists, poets, magazine writers, and professional men and women find the environment especially conducive to their best work.”

1940 CARMEL AS THE PINE CONE SAW IT*

“The beautiful white sand beach is still there and frequently crowded. The sand dunes are cut up except for a few acres which are city property and a few more private property in jeopardy of being subdivided. The pine forest is thinning, the soft bed of pine needles nearly gone. The live oaks are flourishing better than ever before. Fishing is still fair in the river, although nothing compared with old days, and there are still a few fish to be caught by the lucky ones in the bay.

*...the fundamental things apply,
As Time Goes By...*

The bathhouse at the beach is a thing of the past. A city ordinance prevents any bathhouse or concessions at the beach. The surf bathing in summer is excellent. There are two regular motion picture houses. The Carmel Library is well housed, the Manzanita Club and the American Legion are important clubs, and there are a number of women's, civic and political and social clubs. Many of the Carmelites devote their time to music, art and writing, but the retired have become the most important portion of the population.

Professional people are only second and the businessman has assumed an important position.”

2016 CARMEL AS SEEN TODAY BY THE CRA

Our beach is still a playground for all ages and is the only beach where dogs run freely off-leash. Our once-pristine white sand has become degraded by excessive numbers of wood burning fires. The oft-told tale of winter storms cleansing the beach is just that – a tale. Storms do scour the beach of charcoal, but the ocean coughs it back up onto the sand.

Age, disease, drought, construction have reduced our forest of pines, redwoods and oaks. The sculptured cypress trees on Scenic Road, framing views of the ocean, are vanishing due to age, wind and homeowners' desire for unobstructed views.

Fishing in the Carmel River is limited. The river no longer flows year-round.

The historic movie house on Ocean Avenue was torn down to make way for Carmel Plaza. Today, there are no movie houses in our village.

More than 60 percent of today's homeowners do not live here year-round. Carmel's ordinance regulating rentals to 30 days or more is ignored and a year-round residential rental market has been depleted. These two factors combined create neighborhoods of strangers with no shared values and no interest in serving their community.

Carmel today is being loved to death by visitors who come from all over the world – clogged sidewalks and congested streets cause residents to long for the old days when Carmel was a self-sufficient little town which drew writers, professors, artists and photographers.

Dear Readers: I hope you will find these perspectives thought-provoking. Undeniably, Carmel was once a much different place from what it is today. Some changes merely reflect changes occurring throughout America. Others are local. In many instances, local changes have not passed the point of no return. If we have the will, restoration of much of what we value most about Carmel is possible.

The city's advertising budget is enormous. Well-placed articles and ads draw people here in great numbers. Major events fill our town and our coffers, but that comes at great expense to the peace and tranquility of this lovely village in a forest-by-the-sea.

*From "A Century of Pine Cones", The Carmel Pine Cone, April 24, 2015. (Reprinted courtesy of the Carmel Pine Cone)

CRA CANDIDATES FORUM

TUESDAY, MARCH 8, 2016 • 7:00 TO 10:00 P.M.
CARPENTER HALL, SUNSET CENTER

— CANDIDATES FOR MAYOR —



Steve Dallas



Ken Talmage



Richard Kreitman



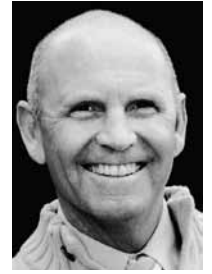
David Mosley



Jack Pappadeas



Janet Reimers



Bobby Richards

— CANDIDATES FOR CITY COUNCIL —

SOME QUESTIONS WE MIGHT ASK THE CANDIDATES

■ *The city council agreed on a “Marshall Plan” for the restoration of the beach and forest. How well is this plan being implemented?*

▲ Most people agree that Carmel’s beach and forest are our most valuable assets. Yet, attributed to budget limitations, their care was often neglected. Some people believe that recent efforts at restoration are still inadequate. Others hold that beach and forest restoration projects are now receiving an appropriate share of the city’s budget.

■ *The city council made code enforcement a priority for the Planning Department. Has this effort been successful?*

▲ This priority has been reflected in the recruitment of personnel and some procedural changes. Nevertheless, opinions differ as to the adequacy of current enforcement with respect to unapproved structural changes, right of way encroachments, illegal short-term rentals and other code violations.

■ *The effort to solve parking problems by establishing paid parking on Ocean Avenue was abandoned. What steps should be taken now to alleviate parking problems?*

▲ The city is now attempting to reduce parking problems by more stringent enforcement of existing regulations. Additional parking control officers and equipment have been added. It is too

soon to evaluate the effectiveness of these efforts. On the other hand, many believe such measures will be ineffective unless more parking spaces are added.

■ *Should the proposed ban on wood fires on the beach be extended to a ban on wood fires in home fireplaces throughout the city?*

▲ Air pollution from wood burning smoke can be a public health hazard. Yet no studies have been conducted to demonstrate that, except for occasions with many fires on the beach, unsafe levels of wood burning smoke are present. Nevertheless, many cities have adopted or are considering bans on fires in home fireplaces.

■ *Is Carmel permitting too many tourist-oriented special events?*

▲ Each year seems to bring at least one new two or three day special event to Carmel. Although some residents may participate in these events, most seem to aim at attracting visitors. “Car Week” in particular has become a nightmare for residents when such routines as going to the post office during business hours can be all but impossible. Some local nonprofit organizations profit from these events. They may also make significant contributions to the city’s economy and to tax revenues. Nevertheless, from residents’ perspectives, the question remains, “How many is too many?”

■ *How can Carmel’s city government achieve the proper balance between residents seeking quiet, livable beauty and the business community’s striving for a bustling tourist trade?*

▲ This question has been asked repeatedly since the earliest years of Carmel’s history. Now, in its centennial year, the question is as timely as ever. On one hand, a prosperous business community supports assets that make the village such a desirable place to live. On the other hand unrestrained enterprise can damage those assets and impair the quality of residents’ lives. The principle underlying Carmel’s incorporation remains as stated in Ordinance 96, “The City of Carmel-by-the-Sea is hereby determined to be primarily, essentially, and predominantly a residential city... wherein business and commerce have... and are proposed to be...subordinated to its residential character.”

CRA COMMUNICATIONS TEAM

Newsletter: Barbara Livingston, Tom Parks, and Richard Flower (*Editorial Panel*),
Bonny McGowan (*Design and Production*),
Mary Condry (*Proofreader*) and Carl Iverson and Vicki Kou (*Distribution*). Other: Kathy Fredrickson (*E-Blast Manager*), Dick Dalsemer (*Email Manager*), Michael LePage and Christine Rue (*Facebook Managers*) and Darlene Mosley (*Dines Out*).

CONTACT CRA

www.carmelresidents.org
carmelresidents@gmail.com
(831) 626-1610



Kathy Bang

After considerable rain (who's complaining about the rain?) we met in a local coffee house with Kathy Bang, arguably the highest profile resident in Carmel these days. Kathy Bang, of the no-wood fires on Carmel beach; the person who created videos graphically depicting the sad state of the once pristine white sands of a legendary beach.

Welcome, Kathy Bang. For community service, your name looms large in this village, throughout the Peninsula and even beyond. Involved, certainly, but dedicated might describe Kathy Bang more precisely. Where and in what organizations do your energies take you?

I serve on the board of the Sunset Center. We're looking to improve the reach and quality of this splendid complex. Operating this fine campus is costly, so financing is of major concern if we are to accomplish proposed changes and enhancements.

I'm on the Forest and Beach Commission, also. I've been on the board of directors of Community Hospital of the Monterey Peninsula for two years. My background is in nursing and hospital administration so this is a good fit for me. I chair the Patient Safety and Quality Committee at CHOMP and serve on the Executive Committee.

What about the early years, BC, before Carmel?

I'm one of six children. My father was a mailman, my mother a homemaker. Strange as it may sound, I have worked since I was six years old--worked at something. Though my folks couldn't afford it, I was the first member of my family to go to college. I qualified for a scholarship, and augmented it with hospital jobs. I attended Kent State and ultimately graduated from Ohio State and went directly into nursing. I eventually advanced to nursing administration and then to hospital administration. My first husband was fatally injured in an automobile accident. I had known my second husband professionally for several years. He, too, was widowed and in the healthcare field. We met, moved to . . .

We were just about to ask about your husband. I think you mentioned earlier that it was he who first discovered Carmel.

You're correct. He often attended conferences in Pebble Beach. On his free time he would drive into Carmel where he'd explore the village where he hoped we could settle. I remember asking him why he so wanted to make our home in Carmel. His answer was that in his many travels to France he had discovered the most beautiful seaside village he had ever seen. It was En Fleur in Notrmandy. That is until he discovered Carmel-by-the-Sea. And here we are.

It is said that almost single-handedly you have become the inspiration for saving our

beach, and by extension, our health. The proof is at City Hall and with the Coastal Commission. How do you respond to that characterization?

I am only one Carmel citizen who cares about the beach. We bought a house close to the beach and couldn't ignore what we saw day after day. The white sands were littered with the results of up to one hundred wood fires each night: the trash, the smoke, the charcoal, the disgusting litter that picnickers left behind for others to clean up, but mostly the smoke from wood fires. This was and is a health hazard. When the Coastal Commission came on the scene the news at first wasn't good—many members wouldn't hear of eliminating wood fires. But finally the Commission agreed that smoke from wood fires is a health issue. The future will be decided at City Hall. Let me be quite clear: I am not against locals and visitors enjoying our beach. I love to hear children playing, and watching people, young and old, enjoying themselves at the beach. But one can enjoy the beach without a wood fire. I didn't move to Carmel to take up the battle cry for the beach. We came to have a quiet life and become good citizens.

Well, a quiet life may have to wait awhile, but there are many of your neighbors, and good number of other residents of this village, who believe that you are what defines a good citizen. The CRA thanks you for sharing your thoughts with us and for the commitment you have made to the environment and beauty of Carmel.

John Nesbitt and the *Passing Parade*

During the 1930s and 1940s, families all over America gathered around their radios to hear an announcer intone, “*The Passing Parade*. Your favorite stories as told by your favorite storyteller. A man whose voice is familiar to millions of theatergoers and radio listeners. Here’s John Nesbitt to bring you some stories from *The Passing Parade*.”

John Nesbitt, a popular star of radio, television, and movie short-subjects, spent the last fifteen years of his life in Carmel. He and his family shared their time between a home in Carmel and the Circle M. Ranch below Big Creek in Big Sur.

Nesbitt began his career as a radio announcer, first in Spokane and then in San Francisco. His early success was attributable to a distinctive voice and excellent diction. He credited his father’s hearing loss for his precise articulation—his father became irascible if he couldn’t understand what his son was saying. Nesbitt also credited his father with providing the original idea for the *Passing Parade* programs. When the old gentleman died, Nesbitt inherited a trunk filled with newspaper clippings holding anecdotes about contemporary and historic people and events.

Nesbitt’s first efforts in creating broadcasts from items in his father’s trunk began in 1935 with a series called *Headlines From the Past*. Positive responses to this series led to the introduction of the first *Passing Parade* radio series in 1937. According to one critic, Nesbitt “had an exceptional writing style” and was “a master story teller”, noting, “He didn’t use music or sound effects, but vivid words to conjure up images in the minds of listeners, so they didn’t just hear what he said, they actually saw it.”

His successful radio series led to a contract with MGM for short films. Initially these films were “short subjects” shown in movie theatres. Later they became fifteen-minute television “docudramas”. Five won Oscars as the year’s best short films.

Both radio and television series were either stand-alone productions or incorporated into variety hours. Among the latter were *The Westinghouse Program*, where he joined John Charles Thomas, a popular star of the Metropolitan Opera, and a series shared with his friend Meredith Willson, creator of the musical *The Music Man*. Another television series, *Telephone Time*, featured playlets written by Nesbitt and performed by prominent actors.

Passing Parade stories were always factual, based on both familiar and little known stories from the past and present. Among the more famous radio episodes were stories about: Francois Villon, who like Dr. Jekyll, was a student of science, but also, like Mr. Hyde, a murdering savage; Franz Anton Mesmer, the discoverer of hypnosis; Typhoid Mary; the Morro Castle disaster; and the Johnstown flood. Movie and TV short films included *Annie Was a Wonder*, about immigrant girls coming to America; *Mr. Whitney Had a Notion* about inventor Eli Whitney; *The Story of Alfred Nobel*; and films about solar energy, the advent of the Bill of Rights, and mail-order marriages.

Perhaps the *Passing Parade* episode that attracted widest recognition was broadcast on June 6, 1944—the historic D-Day when Allied troupes began the invasion of Europe’s mainland. Instead of merely reiterating the facts of the invasion, Nesbitt imagined the episode as taking place 100 years hence. It depicted a scene in “a school room



on a beautiful day in June—June the Sixth, 2044.” An “old history professor” recalls, “one hundred years ago... one of the greatest events since the fall of Rome took place...the invasion of Europe by the Democracies.” He pays tribute to the “young men who gazed through the moonlight with their gray tense faces...sailing into the jaws of the most magnificent fighting machine ever known.” The professor reminds the students were it not for these men, “You would be at this moment marching on a parade ground having your muscles hardened for new wars and having your brains bound into a metal case of narrow ideas and rules. And the word democracy would be forbidden in this classroom.”

Undoubtedly the D-Day episode illustrates the over-optimism characterizing many *Passing Parade* episodes. (e.g. “And all of this, young ladies and gentlemen of the history class, is why we never permit you to forget this historical number, June Six, One Nine Four Four.”) But are we better served by the cynicism pervading popular entertainment today?

City

NEWS & VIEWS



WELCOME HOME, CHIP RERIG CARMEL'S NEW CITY ADMINISTRATOR

In 1996, a young man walked up the steps of City Hall. He placed an application for employment in the Planning Department in a small box at the front door. The rest is history. That young man, Chip Rerig by name, was hired by Brian Roseth as an Assistant Planner, a job he happily held until 2003. Last month he returned to City Hall, this time at the invitation of the City Council to be offered the position of City Administrator. He said, "Yes". And he's returning home.

When Chip left his position in the Planning Department, he had reached the top of available positions. Robin Wilson, a Planning Commissioner, suggested Chip should leave to "get his postdoctoral credential". Chip reluctantly took that advice and accepted a position with substantially greater responsibilities in Monterey's Planning Department.

Among the successes achieved during his career in Monterey are the revitalization plans for Lighthouse Avenue, North Fremont, Alvarado Street and the waterfront. These plans are just coming into play. They implement the long-term visions of Monterey's City Council. He finds particular satisfaction in the implementation of plans for the waterfront that had not been updated since 1939. It was Chip's extensive

background in land use planning and community development that persuaded Carmel's City Council to look no further in their search for a City Administrator.

Chip plans to continue the atmosphere of caring and concern that characterized the administration of his predecessor Doug Schmitz. He encourages open channels for feedback from the Council, staff, and the community. He is a "good listener", always trying to bring people together for the common good. He recognizes and respects Carmel's uniqueness and understands that different people have different visions and priorities.

Beginning with his earlier tenure on the Planning Department staff, he is well acquainted with Carmel's General Plan, the fundamental source of guidelines for preservation of what is special about the village and for the planning of future developments. He respects the integrity of past decision makers who understood the necessity of caring for our natural resources—beach, forest, parks, trails, and open space—as well as monitoring the architectural integrity of commercial and residential construction. He favors reliance on the experience and knowledge of his staff over hiring consultants who do not come with full appreciation of the community that hires them.

Chip, his wife Lesley and their three children, Jonas, Ethan, and Rocket, are familiar figures on Carmel's beach. Five-year-old Rocket usually suggests a stop at Cottage of Sweets on Ocean Avenue after a visit to the beach.

CRA welcomes the return of Chip Rerig and his family. We look forward to enjoying his leadership at City Hall for many years to come.

STORM PREPAREDNESS

Public Works staff completed the annual inspection and maintenance of storm water drains. However, inlets, pipes and drains continue to need periodic maintenance throughout the winter. If residents note problems, they should report the specific location and information to Public Works staff at 620-2070.

PROPANE-FUELED CONTAINERS FOR BEACH FIRES

Public Works staff is researching user-supplied propane-fueled fire containers for use on Carmel Beach. The staff will develop a list of models that seem most suitable and conduct outreach to Carmel area stores to encourage offering these models for sale and/or rent.

NEW CITY STAFF MEMBERS

David Di Maggio, a recent graduate of the MPC Police Academy, has been appointed to the police force. Jermel Laurie has joined the staff as a building inspector. This will enable expanding inspection services from three to five days per week, thus improving the timeliness of building inspections.

PG&E UPDATE

Mayor Jason Burnett and Public Safety Director Michael Calhoun participated in a news conference in San Francisco regarding last year's house explosion in Carmel, expressing their concerns regarding PG&E's failed safety practices and outdated records. They also presented written testimony to the Public Utilities Commission and attended the PUC hearings on the situation.

HIGHWAY 68 ROUNDABOUT

Residents who are interested in updates about the Highway 68 roundabout project can sign up for regular email progress reports at <http://tamcmonterey.org/programs/roundabouts/hwy68rndabt.html>

CRA

NEWS & VIEWS



CRA CELEBRATES THE CENTENNIAL

CRA has led the celebration of Carmel's Centennial with three notable contributions. Our book *Stories of Old Carmel* has become a local "best seller". The first printing of 300 copies sold out within the first month. The second printing of 500 copies is selling equally well. Copies are available at Pilgrim's

Way Bookstore, River House Books, Carmel Bay Company, Carmel Drug Store and The Phoenix Shop at Nepenthe. Our marketing committee, chaired by Ann Pendleton, is working on other sales opportunities.

Part I of our Centennial Series on January 21, with Jack Galante recalling his grandfather Frank Devendorf, filled all of the available seats in Carpenter Hall and accommodated several stalwart standees. It was a memorable evening with a fascinating talk supported by intriguing photographs. Following the program an informal social hour featured wine donated by Jack and Dawn Galante.

The January/February issue of *The Voice* was a special edition presenting reminiscences of earlier days in Carmel from ten residents. It was necessary to order a second printing to meet requests for additional copies. If you want a copy, call 626-1610.

And the year has only just begun. We'll be celebrating throughout.

Incidentally, Tom Brocato who heads the group planning the parade on Saturday, October 29th--two days before the 100th anniversary of the signing of Carmel's incorporation--reminds us to refer to the "Centennial Celebration Parade", not the "Halloween Parade".

CALL FOR NOMINATIONS

The election of members of CRA's Board of Directors for three-year terms beginning June 1, 2016 will occur during the month of May. The bylaws specify that CRA members may nominate candidates for the board by submitting a petition signed by ten members thirty days in advance of the date ballots are mailed. Therefore, petitions must be received by April 1. The names of such candidates will be added to the slate prepared by the nominating committee. Nominating petitions should be sent to CRA Nominating Committee, Box 13, Carmel-by-the-Sea, CA 93921.

HAVE YOU PAID YOUR DUES?

The 2016 membership year began on January 1. Membership dues for the year were payable at that date. But if you haven't gotten around to paying them we are of a forgiving breed—if you pay them right away. Our annual dues are \$30 for singles and \$50 for families. However consider becoming a benefactor, paying \$100 to support our vital community service projects. If you have mislaid the remittance envelope, don't fret; any old envelope addressed to CRA, Box 13, Carmel-by-the-Sea, CA 93921 will do. But don't forget to include your name, mailing address, home location address, and email address.



CRA DINES OUT!

CRA members should get ready for an enchanting evening on April 20th at the new Mediterranean restaurant on Ocean Avenue, recently created by the owners of Dametra. We will get started at 5:00 P.M. with wine that can be purchased for \$6.00 per glass. Our feast will begin at 6:00 with your choice of soup of the day or Greek salad; then on to an entrée of your choice. The selection includes local sand dabs, lamb souvlaki or moussaka. For dessert, what could be sweeter than baklava?

The Mediterranean, located on the south side of Ocean Avenue between Lincoln and Monte Verde, is sure to be an exciting addition to our Carmel culinary adventures. Save the date, April 20th at 5:00 P.M. Please send your checks for \$35.00 per person, payable to CRA, to Darlene Mosley, PO Box 1135, Carmel, CA 93921 by April 9th. Specify your choice of entrée. The dinner price does not include wine that is available at \$6.00 per glass by cash only.

BEACH CLEANUP

Helen d'Oliveira who plans our monthly beach cleanup project has announced the dates for this year:

March 19 • April 16 • May 21
June 18 • July 16 • August 27
September 17 (*SOS Statewide Coastal Cleanup*)
October 15 • November 19

New team members would be welcome. Bring gloves, but other equipment is provided. Coffee and cookies increase the congeniality. Meet at the foot of Ocean Avenue at 9:00 A.M.

CARMEL RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION

Post Office Box 13

Carmel-by-the-Sea, CA 93921

www.carmelresidents.org

carmelresidents@gmail.com

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.

VOTE • VOTE • VOTE

This year's City of Carmel-by-the-Sea election on Tuesday, April 12 is unusual in that no incumbent is running for reelection to an office they currently hold. Voters will be electing a new mayor and two new members to the City Council. This situation increases the importance of voters giving careful consideration to decisions that may determine the course of our village for the next two years.

Foremost is the responsibility to vote. The majority of Carmel voters vote by mail. This year, ballots and other voter materials will be in your mail around March 14. If you prefer to vote at the polls, they will be at Sunset Center, open from 8 :00 A.M until 8:00 P.M.

To vote, you must be registered at an address within the city limits of Carmel-by-the-Sea. If you have any questions about whether you qualify and whether you are currently registered, they can be answered by calling the Monterey County Elections Department at (866) 887-9274 or online at www.montereycountyelections.us

If you qualify but are not currently registered or if you have changed your address or your name since you last voted, you must reregister before March 28. Forms for voter registration are available at the post office.

The CRA does not, in fact cannot, endorse candidates. (Our nonprofit tax status precludes such endorsements.) Nevertheless, we strongly advise our members to consider carefully the announced positions of candidates and to ask questions about where their priorities lie. Carmel is, as stated in its Municipal Code, "primarily, essentially and predominantly a residential city". Tourism may be its major industry but the interests of that industry should remain secondary. Fortunately, in many instances, the best interests of residents coincide with the best interests of visitors. But when those interests are opposing, the city administration must always favor what best serves the residents. Bear this in mind when you decide how to vote.