

the VOICE

OF THE CARMEL RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION

CELEBRATING **30** YEARS OF COMMUNITY SERVICE

SEPTEMBER • OCTOBER 2017

CRA Movie Matinee: "Intelligent Trees"

Coming Soon to a venue near you:

On Wednesday, September 27 – not our usual Thursday meeting day - the CRA will mark another first with Part IV of our 2017 "Moving Forward" program series when we join with Friends of the Carmel Forest to host a movie matinee at Carpenter Hall. The coming attractions include popcorn and other movie theater treats. The main feature is the mind-boggling, mind-opening video documentary "Intelligent Trees." Show time is 5 p.m.

After the screening, coastal biologist Nicole "Nikki" Nedeff will answer questions and help us appreciate how valuable our trees are to our environment, our economy and our health.

As we'll see in "Intelligent Trees," trees can communicate with each other, the better to enhance their health and improve their odds of survival. This fascinating 45-minute video, explores the various ways trees communicate with each other over decades, as interpreted by a renowned forester and a leading scientist.

According to a growing body of recent research, trees "talk," recognize "family ties" and care for their young. German forester Peter Wohlleben, author of "The Hidden Life of Trees," and University of British Columbia (Canada) scientist Suzanne Simard – both featured in the film - have been studying trees for years. They have concluded that trees are much more than rows of wood waiting to be turned into furniture, buildings or firewood. They are more than organisms producing oxygen and cleaning the air for us, as valuable as those things are. Trees, according to Simard and Wohlleben, are individual beings that have feelings, know friendship, have a common language and

look after each other.

The documentary has been much-praised.

"If the themes of harmony, connection and collaboration between humans and trees in the movie 'Avatar' inspired you, stand by," wrote the magazine Psychology Today. "That fiction was in part inspired by real-life trees ... But there's more, much more. And it has global implications for us all."

"Together, Wohlleben and Simard are a tree dream team," observed Treehugger.com enthusiastically. "Trees can form bonds like an old couple and look after each other."

Program presenter Nikki Nedeff is a Carmel Valley native with a keen interest in local nature and cultural history. She has multiple degrees in biogeography from UC-Berkeley, and has worked in the Monterey region for local agencies and non-profit organizations alike. Among other things, she was the Monterey Peninsula Regional Park District's first naturalist, and later coordinated restoration efforts on the Carmel River for the Water Management District.

Additionally, the multi-tasking Nedeff served as the conservation director for the Big Sur Land Trust and was vice president in charge of California programs for the Wilderness Land Trust. Nedeff and her colleagues in Monterey Pine Forest Watch wrote the book "The Monterey Pine Forest: Coastal California's Living Legacy." She recently completed a biological assessment and management recommendations for the Mission Trail Nature Preserve in Carmel.

Here's a final bit of good news: The program, video and highly edible treats are free and open to the public.



Photo by Georgina Armstrong

Carmel is justly famous for its forest canopy.

WEDNESDAY— MEETING

September 27th

TIME: 5:00PM

LOCATION:
Carpenter Hall,
Sunset Center

*Free and open to
the public.*

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

BY BARBARA LIVINGSTON

"Second Hand Rose(s) of 13th Avenue"



The song "Second Hand Rose," made so famous by Barbra Streisand, is a perfect description of Ann Pendleton and her hard-working crew, who produced another great Carmel Treasures Sale to benefit the Carmel Residents Association.

For months, our garages were filled to the brim with wonderful, lightly used, no-longer-favored treasures from homes of our CRA members. Those treasures translate to big bucks for our association and feed the coffers of our community outreach programs. The annual sale, held in early August, is the only fundraising effort we conduct, apart from the raffle at our annual Fiesta in the Forest.

Members were advised initially to drop off items at my front porch on 13th Avenue, and they did. My garage filled up slowly at first and donations were spread out over the tiny garage. When Lucinda Lloyd dropped off some absolutely marvelous rush-bottom dining chairs, she looked askance at the disarray.

"This will not do," she declared, and

promptly proceeded to organize the space to allow acceptance of many more donations. Need organizing? You know whom to call. Once my garage reached saturation, Ann moved her car out of her garage and started taking in what I could no longer accept.

One of the bags at my front gate had a beautifully written note from Robbin Loneragan, expressing her "appreciation for this opportunity to support the Carmel Residents Association," to both rid her home of some things and for the CRA to put the proceeds to good use for the community. Several members made many trips to my garage.

Why do we need to fundraise? You may ask, "Aren't member dues sufficient to cover all costs?" Well, yes and no.

Member dues pay for the design, printing and mailing of *The Voice*, our now-six-issues-per-year newsletter, which I like to call "the best little newspaper in the West." Dues also pay for our community events, such as Carmel City Candidates Forums, Citizen of the Year celebrations and our five-times-yearly programs featuring speakers and issues important to our village. Our CRA Dines Out! at Carmel restaurants, our Fiesta Goes Luau and our annual holiday party and dinner are all intended to be revenue-neutral. No profit is expected or received (except for the raffle income mentioned above).

To everyone who donated their treasures, to everyone who came to the sale and to

all the Second Hand Roses of 13th Avenue who marked and sold our treasures, a great big THANK YOU!

Second-hand Roses crew: Ann Pendleton, Chair; Barbara Hardy, Dick Stiles, Janine Chicourat, Ovilee Kennedy, Karen Negel, Christine Rue, Chris Gaspich, Loren Hughes, Lauren Banner, Lynn Ross.

Special thanks to Barbara Hardy and Ann Nelson, who worked so hard to assist the indefatigable Ann Pendleton.

In Memoriam

Bonny McGowen

The editorial board of *The Voice* sadly acknowledges the death of our long-time CRA member and designer of our newsletter, Bonny McGowen. Bonny was a vibrant, multi-faceted addition to our team and we greatly regret her loss. She is missed by her family, her hundreds of friends and the community.

CRA Communications Team

Newsletter: Barbara Livingston,

David Armstrong,

Tom Parks (editorial board)

Kyle Ferdinand (design and production),

Mary Condry (proofreader)

Kathy Fredrickson (e-blast manager),

Carl Iverson and Vicki Kou (distribution),

Lauren Banner (Facebook manager),

Loren Hughes (e-mail manager),

Darlene Mosley (CRA Dines Out!)



Fun finds at Carmel Treasures Sale. Ann Pendleton, Barbara Hardy, and Lauren Banner

To Women During World War II: “Uncle Sam Wants You”

BY RICHARD FLOWER

Editor’s note: Richard Flower was editor-in-chief of The Voice. In addition to his many roles in the CRA, he was a trustee of Harrison Memorial Library, sat on the Forest and Beach Commission and supported Friends of Carmel Forest. We are proud to publish his last article.



World War II brought historic changes in the roles played by American women. Not only did more and more women enter the nation’s workforce, they took jobs that had never before been considered suitable for female workers.

Rosie the Riveter was probably the embodiment of this revolution, symbolizing women who made significant contributions to the war effort when millions of men were in uniform. Lacking shipyards, airplane manufacturers or munitions-makers, Monterey County had limited demand for conventional “Rosies”. But the county’s prime industry, agriculture, constantly needed workers. Hence, at least one agricultural endeavor reached beyond the Lettuce Curtain that divided the county west from east.

This endeavor drew women workers from Carmel and other local communities. A front page article in the September 4, 1942, Carmel Pine Cone announced a campaign to recruit women to work in the “huge rubber-plant nurseries in the Salinas Valley.” Those nurseries cultivated guayule (why-yoo-lay), a shrub native to northern Mexico and parts of the southwestern United States that contains latex in its trunk and branches.

In the Salinas area, guayule seedlings were first grown in nurseries and later transported to open fields. Women workers were needed “to remove the plants from nursery beds and pack them for shipment,” according to the newspaper account. After transplanting, further employment in processing mature harvested plants was possible. Transportation to Salinas would be provided and workers would be paid at least 50 cents an hour.

Due to increasing Japanese aggression in

the early 1930s, the U.S. War Department became concerned about the vulnerability of rubber supplies. More than 90 percent of the world’s supplies came from rubber-tree plantations in threatened Southeast Asia. Seeking alternative sources of rubber, the department assigned two young Army officers – one named Dwight David Eisenhower – to study the potential of guayule. Their report encouraged the Intercontinental Rubber Company to embark on a program to grow guayule for rubber-making.

In March 1942, Congress enacted legislation setting up the Emergency Rubber Project that charged the U.S. Department of Agriculture with substantially expanding the program. That program included planting 39,000 guayule seedlings in fields in the Salinas Valley. By July 1944, more than 8,000 acres were devoted to guayule and more than 3,000 people were employed in the industry.

Unlike the latex-producing trees of Southeast Asia that may be tapped like sugar maples for liquid latex, the latex in guayule plants is contained in microscopic cells. The harvested plants were parboiled, then subjected to further steps for extraction.

Though researchers demonstrated some feasible uses for guayule rubber in military equipment, the project in Salinas and elsewhere was abandoned after Allied forces drove the Japanese out of Southeast Asia in the early-to-middle 1940s. Simultaneously, several American laboratories were producing synthetic rubber that could be made efficiently and economically.

Interest in guayule as a source of rubber waned but never disappeared. In recent years, one characteristic has encouraged successful commercial use: very few people are allergic to guayule rubber; that makes it desirable material for making surgical gloves. Also, at least one manufacturer has successfully marketed hypoallergenic wet suits for surfers and divers. Nevertheless, the guayule rubber industry has not flourished again in the Salinas Valley.

The connection of Carmelites to the guayule rubber venture during World War II was limited. Yet, the industry’s turning to Carmel to recruit women to help with the war effort is significant in itself. Any review of important events in America’s history over the last century shows again and again that many Carmelites were more than mere bystanders. They always did what they could.



Richard Flower

Courtesy of Ann Flower

VILLAGE INTERVIEW: *Maria Sutherland*

BY BARBARA LIVINGSTON

“I don’t know about you, but I like oxygen”



Courtesy of Friends of Carmel Forest

Maria Sutherland and friends renew Carmel's forest.

Buddy barked his signature greeting as Maria Sutherland, President of Friends of Carmel Forest (carmelforest.org), came through the gate of “green gardens.” As we drank our tea – appropriately enough, under majestic pines – Maria answered some questions.

Q: Tell our readers a little about yourself.

I was born in Carmel in the mid-1960s. My beatnik parents actually left after the Monterey Pop Festival (in 1967) because they thought the world was going to hell in a hand basket. All my life, when asked where I was born, people would sing the praises of Carmel and its beauty. After spending time on the East Coast and in France, it was natural to return. I currently work in communications design – web sites, social media and public relations – for arguably the coolest people in town.

Q: How did you become interested in helping to protect, preserve and enhance Carmel’s forest?

While living in Greenwich Village, there was one tree in front of my building. I was on the fifth floor and was lucky enough to look into the foliage. What a difference

that tree made! Every fall, when the leaves fell, the psychological effects of the cold concrete were palpable. I vowed then that wherever I lived, I would work to enhance my environment through the planting and protection of trees.

Q: What about the \$25,000 windfall from PG&E?

Mayor Steve Dallas secured a \$25,000 grant (from a \$1.6 million settlement) to restore the urban forest in downtown Carmel. We are currently working on a three-block test project. We hope this will become a multi-year grant and that it will inspire matching donations.

Q: Acknowledging the esthetic and economic benefits to our properties, what other value does the forest bring to our village?

I don’t know about you, but I love oxygen. There are the cooling effects and absorption of carbon dioxide, which are so needed today. Perhaps the most significant benefits have been proved by science: being in a forest setting lowers blood pressure, pulse rate and cortisol levels. It’s the reason shoppers spend more on tree-

lined streets. Trees are great for our health.

Q: Tell me about the Centennial Trees Program. Did it meet your expectations?

When our group started the Centennial (now Commemorative) Tree program, we thought it would be a win-win. Trees would be planted, funds would be raised for future projects and individuals would have a beautiful touchstone to visit. We underestimated the emotional response and how much these trees mean to people. Each tree represents a story - the joy of a wedding celebration, a family’s hope for the future, the loss of a beloved spouse. Meeting the donors and seeing how moved they are has been more fulfilling than we could have imagined.

Our commemorative trees are grown at MEarth. We plant the trees once a month, and each of our volunteers has a number of trees to monitor to ensure they’re healthy and watered. Each commemorative tree package includes: A choice of one of three species of native trees: Monterey Pine, Monterey Cypress or California Coastal Oak; a professional planting in Carmel-by-the-Sea; a historical marker with a number, year and personal dedication; monitoring for five years; marking on a map at carmelforest.org of centennial trees.

Q: As president of FCF, what are your goals?

When you live in Carmel, you are living in a park. Each public right-of-way in front of every house is a green space. I would like to see an intelligent, esthetic design approach that considers all of Carmel versus one tree-square or one street. I’d like to see that vision firmly and proudly enforced. I’d also like people to be more empathetic to our fellow organisms.

Q: Do you and your board have a sense of fulfillment?

I’ve been with the board since 2007, and president since 2014. With a (citywide) deficit of over 2,000 trees, our number one goal is to get trees into the ground and ensure they thrive. We lobbied to secure more watering, and this has recently gone into effect. In 2016, we planted 82 trees and raised \$23,500 towards future projects.

Maria, thank you.

BEHEMOTH Tour Buses

A hulking tour bus pulled up outside Carmel Plaza and disgorged dozens of vacationers keen to see picturesque Carmel. Some headed straight to the shopping Valhalla of Carmel Plaza. Others, maps and apps in hand, spilled into the busy intersection of Junipero Street and Ocean Avenue or clustered on the sidewalk, photographed pretty much everything and posed for selfies.

This scenario unfolded in August, but it could happen any time. The visiting bus was from Denver-based Gray Line – the nation’s best-known tour bus operator and the biggest, with sightseeing tours in 700 travel destinations. There are many competing companies, operating tour buses of all sizes, from mega-buses to compact shuttles and vans. The Voice’s research shows that up to 15 buses a day come to Carmel from San Francisco alone. Indeed, we’re in big bus country around here. The California Bus Association, an industry trade and lobbying organization, is just up the road in Castroville.

No one knows exactly how many tourists arrive by tour bus. The Carmel-by-the-Sea Police Department, which enforces parking regulations and collects parking fees from tour bus companies, counts the buses, not the tourists.

“They arrive 365 days a year,” Police Chief Paul Tomasi told CRA President Barbara Livingston and this writer. “A lot come from San Francisco. They park, unload and wait for a few hours, then go back to the Bay Area.”

Residents are very much aware of tour buses: their outsized height and weight, their impact on traffic, the large number of tourists – mostly day-trippers - they bring into town. A solid majority of CRA members said in this summer’s sampling of member opinion that they are “concerned” or “very concerned” about tour buses. “Too big and too many,” was one comment.

Tour buses have been blamed in some places for causing overcrowding and fatal accidents. Still, they come. Big buses

can mean big bucks. One Carmel Plaza business owner told the CRA that 70 percent of her business’s revenue comes from tour bus passengers. Several Ocean Avenue restaurants, packed at 4 pm on weekdays, appear to be popular with tour bus passengers and other tourists.

The city sets tour bus parking fees at \$10 per hour – high for coastal California. Santa Cruz charges \$30 per bus for an entire day. But do all the tour buses actually pay to park in Carmel? The Voice conducted multiple walk-bys outside Carmel Plaza on the west side of Junipero between Ocean and Seventh – the only place tour buses are permitted to park, though some can drop off passengers at larger hotels. Our inspections suggest that compliance with city regulations is spotty.

Bus operators are supposed to pay the \$10 hourly fee at an automated pay station outside Carmel Plaza with cash, debit card or credit card and display the receipt on their windshield. Our inspections turned up many sightings of tour bus drivers and guides near the pay station chatting, smoking or napping, but few sightings of required parking permits. On one occasion, just one of four parked buses had a permit. On a second visit, two of six buses displayed permits. On a third, not one of three parked buses showed a permit.

We looked around to see if there was a camera monitoring compliance. There wasn’t. We observed one tour bus dropping off visitors at the parking site, then driving away.

Chief Tomasi told us that three parking officers routinely visit the Junipero site. By summer’s end, he expects to deploy a police Smart Car equipped with a camera to catch scofflaws. Tomasi told The Voice that the police department sold 3,358 tour bus parking permits from May 2015 to April 2016 (“almost 10 a day”), generating \$41,070 in revenue. Operators who don’t pay up can be fined \$30.

At the CRA’s Carmel Tourism Forum in March, City Administrator Chip Rerig suggested the parking fee for tour buses could be raised to \$100 an hour, pumping up revenue. In theory, that could also reduce the number of tour buses. At this writing, no decision on higher fees, or higher fines, has been made.

Meanwhile, the behemoths of the highway just keep coming.



Tour buses parked outside of Carmel Plaza.

Photos courtesy of David and Georgina Armstrong

Food Service Draft Ordinance Hearing Coming Up –

On Tuesday, September 12, the city council will host a public hearing on a proposed ordinance to implement more environmentally sensitive food service procedures. The proposed ordinance would require restaurants and food vendors in the city to replace plastics with biodegradable, compostable and/or recyclable products. Residents wishing to send comments and questions before the September 12 meeting should send them to environmental compliance manager Agnes Topp at atop@ci.carmel.ca.us.

New Book Collection for Bilingual Children Funded –

The Park Branch of the Harrison Memorial Library has received a grant to fund a bilingual books collection in English and Spanish. The books will be suitable for pre-kindergarten up through 6th grade. The grant came from the California State Library's California Immigrant Alliance Project. Size of the grant wasn't specified in the city's announcement.

New Recycling Containers and Bike Racks Installed –

Public works bought and installed new trash and recycling containers at the Del Mar parking lot. "This is part of our goal to increase recycling in public areas," wrote City Administrator Chip Rerig, who added, "the containers are animal-proof and made here in California." Also, public works installed in early August two new bicycle racks in Forest Hill Park and one bike rack at the Rio Road entrance to Mission Trail Nature Preserve.

Save the Dates –

On Friday, September 15, Carmel High School will hold its annual Homecoming Parade. On Saturday, October 21, Carmel will join in to celebrate Arbor Day. On Saturday, October 28, Carmel will celebrate its birthday, with a 101st birthday party and parade.

New City Attorney Hired –

Glen R. Mozingo, a local resident and former trustee of Harrison Memorial Library who has practiced law mainly in Southern California, was selected unanimously in July by the city council as Carmel's new city attorney. Mozingo, a strong supporter of Mayor Steve Dallas's 2016 campaign, did legal work for Carmel earlier this year when he helped negotiate the Forest Theatre lease and worked with his predecessor, Don Freeman, to more assertively enforce rules forbidding short-term house rentals in the village. Mozingo and his wife, former assistant city administrator Heidi Burch, live in Carmel Woods. Mozingo's appointment became official July 15, when he inked a contract specifying a \$156,000 annual salary for 20 to 25 hours of work per week, plus \$275 an hour for additional work, such as representing the city in court.

Martin Meadow Mowed –

The city completed this summer a two-phase mowing of abundant, dried-out vegetation in Martin Meadow, in Mission Trail Nature Preserve. The city is trying to both keep the area safe from fire during the dry season and balance that against protecting native plants, including Hickman's onion.

Oops! –

Monterey County District Attorney Dean Flippo and new city attorney Glen Mozingo agreed that Carmel-by-the-Sea violated California's Brown Act earlier this year when it failed to list the specific properties on the city council agenda that city hall had negotiated with Sunset Cultural Center Inc. to manage the Forest Theatre and Sunset Center. The violation was deemed unintentional, but it's a bit embarrassing for the city. Agendas are reviewed by the mayor, mayor pro tempore, city administrator, assistant city administrator, city clerk and city attorney before they are made public. To pay penance, the contract was put back on the agenda for the August 8 city council meeting and approved. Upshot: the council will be given fresh Brown Act training.

City Staff Hired –

The city has hired senior planner Marnie Waffle, building official Dick Bower, and public works director Robert Harary. "We have several more recruitments in progress, and are hopeful that in a couple of months, we will have more vacancies filled," city staffer Maxine Gullo told the CRA.

Mayor Appoints Mosley –

Mayor Steve Dallas and the city council have appointed Darlene Mosley, a member of the Carmel Residents Association Board of Directors, to represent Carmel on the Joint Powers Authority board for Community Health Services for Monterey County. The non-profit organization addresses issues related to substance abuse, mental health, and youth. The board meets monthly at Sand City's city hall.



In Appreciation

RICHARD FLOWER

A man of great integrity, sensitivity and graciousness has died.

As a member of the Carmel Residents Association, he was to the membership and board of directors a leading light, a voice of reason and conscience. There was never a task where he would not wholeheartedly lend a helping hand, or express an opinion – always one of thoughtful consideration.

He served for many years on the CRA board. In 2015, he was selected as Citizen of the Year by the CRA. As editor of our newsletter, *The Voice*, he wrote several articles for each issue, including detailed, and sometimes amusing, accounts of Carmel's history. Always a detail-minded, serious person, he was not without a wry and ready wit.

We at CRA should remember that it was he who conceived, co-authored, edited and published one of our most successful endeavors, "Stories of Old Carmel," a book so successful that it is in its third printing. That success was really his. Modestly, he would shun the praise.

Richard Flower was a man of dignity and grace.

Thankfully, he lived a long and full life, and those of us who knew him will miss his presence for years to come.



Carmel Residents Association BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Barbara Livingston, President
Loren Hughes, Vice President

Jon Wolfe, Treasurer
Ann Nelson, Secretary

Members: David Armstrong,
Lauren Banner, Janine Chicourrat,
Mary Condry, Christine Gaspich,
Darlene Mosley, Tom Parks,
Ann Pendleton, Dick Stiles,
Charlotte Townsend, Ken White

CRA WANTS YOU:



The CRA is looking for a person to help install a computer-based membership system and then manage our membership services. It's a great opportunity to volunteer your talents. If you're interested, please contact Christine Gaspich, cowensdesign@me.com.

Member opinion survey –

If you didn't fill out your member questionnaire yet, there's still time – just get it to us by September 9. We will summarize the results in the November/December issue of *The Voice*.

Thanks for a Fabulous Fourth

A special thank you to team leader Ann Pendleton and the people who helped with the CRA, CBTS fresh fruit offering at the 4th of July picnic. Helping out in our tent: Mary and Bob Condry, Kathy Fredrickson, Barbara Hardy, Frankie Laney, Barry and Kathleen Swift, Dianne Terrell and Fran Vardamis. A very big thank you, too, to donors who offered fresh fruit and nuts: California Almond Packers and Exporters (almonds), California Table Grape Commission (grapes), Tanimura & Antle (strawberries), Costco (assistance procuring grapes), Trader Joe's (sliced apples). The 4th of July Committee did a fabulous job handing out 800-odd trays of food to the picnickers in Devendorf Park.

CRA Dines Out! –

The CRA is excited to announce our next dinner, at 5:30 p.m., Wednesday, October 18 at an exotic new restaurant in town: Artemis Turkish Kitchen. Our meal will start with an Artemis meze tabagi appetizer, followed by your choice of lentil soup or Artemis salad. Entrée choices are seafood pasta, chicken shish kebab or vegetarian imam bayildi. Coffee, tea and sweet baklava will finish the meal. House wine is \$7 a glass, or BYO (\$20 corkage). Artemis is located on the south side of Ocean Avenue between Mission and San Carlos streets. Seating is capped at 46, so make your reservations early. Please remember to name your choice of entrée. Send your check for \$40 per person to Darlene Mosley, PO Box 1135, Carmel-by-the-Sea, CA 93921.

Redesigned CRA site –

The redesigned and relaunched CRA web site, www.carmelresidents.org, crafted by Monterey Bay Design, is on its way with new graphics, easy-to-use format and fresh, newly written text. The ETA for our digital make-over is late Fall. Look for it.

New Beach Clean-up Schedule –

The CRA Lovers of Carmel Beach beach-clean-up has temporary new clean-up dates through October 13. The group cleans the beach Fridays from 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. after meeting at the top of the Eighth Avenue stairs. Bring gloves if you can. Call Lauren Banner at (831) 620-2405 to volunteer.

Carmel Residents Association

Post Office Box 13, Carmel-by-the-Sea, CA 93921
www.carmelresidents.org | carmelresidents@gmail.com
Tel. (831) 626-1610

The CRA does not sell, trade, lend or in any other way share our members' information with any organization or company.

CHEERS & CHIDES



CHEERS to Council member Jan Reimers for suggesting that “an easy to understand, politely worded card that includes pertinent information be given to visitors to Carmel-by-the-Sea.” (The Carmel Chamber of Commerce is also preparing a similar card for tourists.) Perhaps most significantly, Reimers gave the most direct response to residents’ health concerns about wood-fueled beach fires by allowing at the August 8 city council meeting that “The overall health science of the smoke cannot be denied.”



CHIDES to the city council for not moving forward on raising the parking fees for those huge tour buses from the present paltry \$10 an hour to, say, \$100 an hour, which the companies can easily afford.



CHIDES to California American Water Co. for charging the most expensive water rates in the country, according to number-crunchers at Washington, D.C.-based non-profit Food & Water Watch. Cal Am’s whopping 68 percent increase in 2017 was the highest one-year jump on F&WW’s list of the 10 most expensive water providers in the United States.



CHEERS to city staff for suggesting flexibility in the long-mooted disposition of Flanders Mansion. According to the packet given to city council members, “Staff recommends that council continue to

explore the feasibility of the lease option, including possible revisions in the lease criteria.”



CHEERS to the Carmel Art Association, celebrating its 90th year through the end of 2017 in its artist-built and artist-owned downtown gallery. The non-profit association will feature ‘showcase artists’ Barbara Johnson and Stan Robbins in September, and Christine Crozier and Susan Giacometti in October. The CAA will also feature ‘solo and group show artists’ Richard Tette and Jan Wagstaff in September, and Andrea Johnson and Melissa Lofton in October.



CHIDES to Monterey County Weekly, which continues to needle Carmel for choosing to be different. In its August 10 issue, the Seaside paper mocked Lauren Banner and her CRA beach clean-up cohorts for trying to figure out the best way to get abundant dog poop off of Carmel Beach. A week later, a Weekly writer attended a Car Week event sponsored by the tourism-touting Monterey County Convention and Visitors Bureau to promote ... Car Week. While sneering at Carmel residents who aren’t in love with flashy, noisy, 10-day-long Car Week, the paper neglected to actually talk to any residents. But it did approvingly quote Carmel Chamber of Commerce President and CEO Jenny MacMurdo, who claimed “Our retailers couldn’t make it without

this week,” likening Car Week to having Christmas in August. Could be. But then, how could she be sure? MacMurdo was hired from Lemoore in June.



CHEERS to the 2017 Carmel Bach Festival for a magnificent 80th season celebration. The zestful opening night performance of Johann Sebastian Bach’s “Ascension Oratorio,” contemporary composer Philip Glass’s “Concerto Grosso” and rousing Amen Chorus from Handel’s “Messiah,” was outstanding. Other exemplary programs such as “From Bach to Bernstein,” featuring enchanting soprano Mia Hamilton (a first-year high school student) singing psalms in Hebrew, soared. High-energy Bach Fest maestro Paul Goodwin was in top form throughout.



CHIDES to Senselife, one of four aggressive skin-care storefronts with Southern California owners that opened downtown in 2016. We heard employees at Senselife and a next-door storefront standing in three wide-open doorways, calling out the usual come-ons of Carmel street touts and offering free product samples. At curbside, a muscular man, head shaved, dressed entirely in black, scarfed a meal and chatted familiarly with the touts. Senselife – on Ocean just around the corner from city hall – is hardly alone in subjecting passersby to unsolicited come-ons. And that’s the problem.