

# the VOICE

OF THE CARMEL RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION

CELEBRATING 32 YEARS OF COMMUNITY SERVICE

NOVEMBER ♦ DECEMBER 2019

## CRA Program: “State of the Village”

Looking back is vital to looking forward. To state a vision is definitely looking forward. City Administrator, Chip Rerig, and Planning Director, Marc Wiener, will present their combined future vision for Carmel, one that has been enthusiastically embraced by the City Council, both past and present. The event, their talk, will come under the umbrella of “Rebuilding the Foundation” of the city enterprise. As stated by Mr. Rerig, “The theory behind the vision is not to be critical of the past, but to look forward to where we’re going and how we can sustain and preserve the unique character and attributes of the Village.”

To implement the above vision the City is reinvesting in infrastructure: the urbanized forest, North Dunes, Mission Trail Nature Preserve, sidewalks, parks,



Planning Director, Marc Wiener and City Administrator, Chip Rerig

right jobs to engage with and accommodate our citizens. Mr. Rerig continues, “This vision is contained within guiding values of accountability, respect and caring, public stewardship, and excellence throughout the city enterprise”.

What issues within the “Rebuilding the Foundation” program are to be addressed or need to be addressed? There

are the ongoing PG&E incident, beach fires, capital work on the Sunset Center, the Forest Theater, Ocean Avenue, Carmel Beach, the Scout House. Add to that

litany, City Hall website and communications technology, city-wide maintenance and beautification, including tree replacement, accessory dwelling units, our pension liability, and short-term rentals. Not to be forgotten--recreational cannabis.

The list is a long one. The City Administrator and Planning Director plan to state their case, and to welcome questions from CRA members.

“Rebuilding the Foundation” is an opportunity for listening and learning about the Village all Carmelites have an investment in, practically and emotionally. This is an important event. It is about us citizens who have chosen to live in one of the world’s most desirable communities. ■

***“The theory behind the vision is not to be critical of the past, but to look forward to where we’re going and how we can sustain and preserve the unique character and attributes of the Village.”***

streets, beach, city buildings. Reinvesting, too, in our technology so that we may better serve and communicate with the community. Also investing in our people, our staff; hiring the right people for the

are the ongoing PG&E incident, beach fires, capital work on the Sunset Center, the Forest Theater, Ocean Avenue, Carmel Beach, the Scout House. Add to that litany, City Hall website and communi-

### CRA Program *Rebuilding the Foundation*

November 21, 2019  
5:00 pm

**Carpenter Hall  
at Sunset Center  
Mission St. South of 8th Ave.**

*Free and open to the public.  
Wine will welcome attendees.*



## A Reader's Perspective

It is always gratifying to hear from our readers, and I welcome members to express differences of opinion on local topics. In our last issue (see *The Voice*, September/October edition), I cited reports regarding the viability of our famed and beloved Monterey Pines and possible solutions to secure the future of our Carmel forest. Gratefully, our friend and longtime Carmel resident, Linda Smith\* responded with an informative and knowledgeable view on the subject. Below is her wise perspective.



PHOTO: NIC COURY

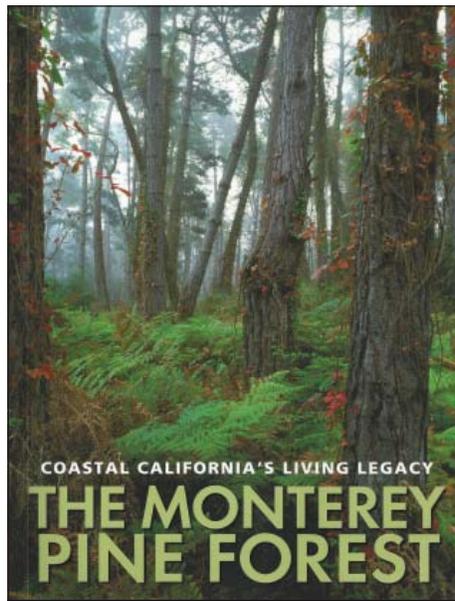
# A Perspective on Carmel's Urban Pine Forest

By Linda Smith

As a third generation Carmelite I would like to urge caution in any consideration to replace our Native Monterey Pines with non-native pines which can carry unknown risks. Instead I hope we will provide the necessary resources to protect and nurture our historic upper canopy native Monterey pines with their lower canopy live oaks. They represent now and have always represented priceless intrinsic value as well as economic value to our city:

1. For the critical role our native forest plays as a carbon sink to combat man-made climate change.
2. For the unifying harmony and beauty, they provide in our skyline and for which the City has always been renowned the world over.
3. For the many biological services they provide that enhance the health of our City's environment.
4. As habitat for wild birds, squirrels, insect pollinators and other creatures, who are adapted to our forest and add so much to our lives with their songs and life affirming activities.
5. For the ecological role they play in the greater native Monterey Pine Forest of the Monterey Bay Area.
6. For the key cultural role the forest plays in Carmel's history. Carmel is not just any town; it has always been a "Village in a Pine Forest." Lately our forest has lost much of its natural harmony and cohesion as our stately veteran Monterey pines disappear and more non-native trees replace them. The urban forest is becoming an artificial hodgepodge. We should reverse this trend and make a commitment to replenish our native trees and shrubs in the city and require that

newcomers contribute to this civic effort on private property.



*The Monterey Pine Forest*

Any effort to replace our Monterey pines with a non-native pine species would be ill advised. We sit in the middle of one of the world's rarest, most unique and valuable ecological and genetic resources in our Native Monterey Pine Forest. Pine species interbreed easily, and we would not want to be the source of genetic contamination of this world treasure.

Yes, Monterey pines present challenges, and we know what they are. All tree species carry their own challenges. Non-native species' risks are unknown, however. Monterey pines have always been a feature of our downtown landscape and esthetic. There are cultivars of the species that are more adaptable as street

trees, and we can employ sensible horticultural pruning as well. We can create larger growing spaces for young pines to grow. Given the central role these beautiful trees, the "Queen of Pines" as they are known, have played in Carmel's natural and cultural history, and the relationship of Carmel's urban forest to the Peninsula's invaluable Native Monterey Pine Forest, we ought at least to make this effort.

Those artists, writers, poets and musicians who gave Carmel her original soul as a town, whose legacy has benefited Carmel throughout its history in incalculable ways, loved and honored the natural beauty and richness of Carmel's forest trees and shrubs, and they insisted on protecting them. I believe we should seek to replicate and restore wherever possible the vegetation that is native to this area,

***We sit in the middle of one of the world's rarest, most unique and valuable ecological and genetic resources in our Native Monterey Pine Forest.***

primarily our Monterey Pines and Coast Live Oaks, but also including the Toyons, Manzanitas, Ceanothus, Coffeeberries and other plants that are a part of the natural forest tapestry. As we face climate change and the sixth Mass extinction crisis, protecting native habitats becomes more important than ever. We owe our forest nothing less than that we honor it as it deserves and that we nurture and steward it for the future. We cannot improve on Mother Nature's design. ■

\* Linda Smith worked in collaboration to produce a well-researched, richly illustrated book, "The Monterey Pine Forest," available at local bookstores.



Starting this issue, I will have this new “Out and About” page that will feature ways to get out and enjoy our amazing town and stories about community outreach. Carmel Cruising is taking a vacation this issue but our work on VoiceMap tours is not. The latest tour, *Scenic Road Pathway*, is now available, and *Downtown Carmel in an Hour* is coming soon. Go to [www.carmelresidents.com/hometowntourist](http://www.carmelresidents.com/hometowntourist) or the Chamber Visitors Center to learn all about the VoiceMap tours. As a bonus, the first 5 members to email me at [carmelcruising@gmail.com](mailto:carmelcruising@gmail.com) will get a free tour of their choice!



## Carmel Residents in Action!

The Monterey Peninsula has a rich heritage of armies of volunteers assisting in major events like the Concours d’Elegance and ATT Pebble Beach Pro-Am. But there are also many stories of businesses and individuals who give time and resources year-round.

In this and future issues we will feature CRA members who are volunteering their time and energy. Below we will focus on two CRA members who help local organizations that deliver food to homebound senior citizens. By sharing a ride-a-long with them we hope to inspire other members to get involved with these organizations or others.



Debbie Winick

### ■ Tuesday, 9:30 AM Meals on Wheels of the Monterey Peninsula (MOWMP)

For the last two years Debbie Winick has been delivering meals and a friendly smile around the peninsula. Debbie, who is the President Elect and a Director of MOWMP, took me through her weekly process. We began at the Sally Griffin Center in Pacific Grove where the kitchen production line was cranking out freshly

cooked hot meals. The meals include milk, juice, fresh fruit, soup, sandwich, salad, and even newspapers placed together in re-usable plastic bins. The eight bins on Debbie’s route were staged along with a computer-generated sheet with the names and addresses of each destination.

It was an impressive scene and, in this flurry of activity, I managed a couple minutes with Melanie Bretz, the Program Manager for Home Delivered Meals. Monday through Friday, MOWMP delivers breakfasts, lunches and dinners to 300 seniors on the Monterey Peninsula. Some of the food comes from the Food Bank and it can be provided as a donation for those who meet eligibility requirements.

Once our cargo was loaded, we left to visit 8 elderly people who live in the Pacific Meadows complex and Carmel Valley residences. We knocked until each door was answered and chatted with the occupant while taking in the food. All were interesting characters, anxious to share a story, and Debbie was an expert at making sure everybody was OK. When a resident doesn’t answer or, if additional assistance is required, Debbie alerts the MOWMP staff. MOWMP not only delivers food but also takes a sincere interest in each recipient.

The entire process, including the return trip to Pacific Grove to return the bins, took about an hour and a half. They have approximately 125 drivers but are always looking for “regular” and “pinch hit” drivers, as well as other volunteer positions.

### ■ Wednesday, 9:30 AM The Carmel Foundation

The following morning, I did a ride along with Nancy Twomey who is the CRA’s Facebook manager and also

volunteers at Monterey Bay Village as well as being a Carmel Community Resource Officer.

We arrived at the Carmel Foundation’s kitchen where Kari Martorella, the program manager of Homebound Meals, guided us to the eight grocery bags that we loaded into the trunk. This day’s Foundation route included Pacific Meadows, where we had brief conversations with each of the lively seniors to make sure all was well. If they didn’t answer, we called them and then Kari at the Foundation for supplemental instructions.



Nancy Twomey

The actual distribution of the meals was virtually identical to my MOWMP experience. The Carmel Foundation has 8 full-time volunteer drivers and 2 “fill-ins”. This every other Wednesday delivery has four frozen meals that cost about \$6/meal and, although a standalone program, it can be complementary to the Meals on Wheels program. The Foundation also provides affordable hot lunches to the general public at Lincoln & 8<sup>th</sup> on Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday.

These two organizations deserve our support and have several ways you can volunteer. For more information on Meals on Wheels and their Group Dining and Sally Griffin Active Living Center programs go to [www.MOWMP.org](http://www.MOWMP.org). For the Carmel Foundation and Monterey Bay Village go to [www.carmelfoundation.org](http://www.carmelfoundation.org). ■

## Gordon Campbell: U.S. Marshals Service

He was “our home-grown Gordie Campbell” according to a local newspaper. Arriving in the Village as a four-year-old in 1914, Gordon graduated from Sunset School and entered Monterey Union High School where he later became student body president, a scholar and a renowned athlete. He quarterbacked for Pop Warner at Stanford and was a member of the 1931 baseball team that won the California collegiate title. With a grandfather who had been the long serving District Attorney for Santa Clara County and a Dad who was city attorney for Carmel, Pacific Grove and Monterey, entering law was a natural fit. He received his law degree from the University of Oregon and then returned to his hometown

information to serve as the U.S. Marshal in Shanghai, China, following his nomination by President Franklin Roosevelt.

The U.S. Marshals were founded along with the Federal Courts as part of the Federal Judiciary Act of 1789. In its early years, the Marshals conducted the Federal Census until 1870 and investigated counterfeiting until the creation of the Secret Service in 1865. The US Marshal for China in 1938 was to carry out the orders of the United States courts in Shanghai, Canton, Hankow and Tientsin. Virtually all matters affecting American interests in China were handled by the courts in these locales and the US Marshals Service was to carry forth the directives of the judiciary.



*U.S. Marshall Gordon Campbell in China*

working with his father, Argyll.

Gordon was elected to the Carmel City Council in April 1938 as part of a team with Herbert Heron and Frederick Bechdolt. The trio ran on a fiscal responsibility platform against the policies of the 1934-1938 city council, easily defeating the one incumbent who sought re-election. The then-council's financial extravagance and the lack of a budget or a budget process aided Heron, Campbell and Bechdolt in winning the votes.

Within months of taking his council position, Campbell tendered his resignation, having received US Senate confir-

Gordon and his wife Doris returned to Carmel from China in 1940. He practiced law locally and was appointed a Superior Court judge in 1962 by Governor Edmund G. (Pat) Brown, retiring in 1971.

In August 1993, Campbell was interviewed by David S. Turk, the U.S. Marshals Service Historian. The interview is 57 pages in length; here are some excerpts:

**TURK:** *What prompted you to go to China?*

**CAMPBELL:** It was purely a political

*By Doug Schmitz*



appointment.

I wanted to get married, and this was in the depth of the Depression. I couldn't afford to get married. I

was making \$100 a month. One day my father was talking with Senator McAdoo long distance, and McAdoo happened to say, “By the way, there's an opening in the office of the marshal out in Shanghai. Do you know anybody that might be interested in that?” At that moment in time, my father said, “Oh, no. I can't think of any person at the moment. But if I do, I'll let you know.” After the phone conversation, my father turned to me and said, “Would you by any chance be interested in this job?” And I said, “Yes, I would.” (WRITER'S NOTE: Argyll Campbell was State Chairman of the Democratic Central Committee of California at the time.)

“So, (I) told my father that yes, I would like to have the job. It's a very exciting part of the world. China and Japan were at war at the time, and we (USA) hadn't gotten into it yet.”

**TURK:** *What were your duties? What did you do?*

**CAMPBELL:** The duties were pretty general. Basically, it would be like it is here, where the marshal carries out the orders of the court or the judge of the United States Court for China. That could be civil orders or criminal.

**TURK:** *Were you charged with doing any investigations, or did you just execute the process of the court?*

**CAMPBELL:** I just executed the process of the court.

**TURK:** *So you weren't expected to go out to prove that a crime had been committed and who did it?*

**CAMPBELL:** I did a bit of that.

Turk's book “Forging the Star” about the history of the United States Marshals Service was published in 2016. Our “home-grown Gordie Campbell” is referenced within the publication. ■

# Taelen Thomas

Many years ago, there was a famous silent screen actor, Lon Chaney, who was billed as “the man of a thousand faces.” Mr. Chaney has moved on to the big screen in the sky, but the good news is that we have here in Carmel a supremely talented man who could conceivably be labeled, “the man of a thousand voices.” Of course, that’s an overstatement, but even so, Taelen Thomas is a performer who carries with him a portfolio of the voices and words of so many of the great writers, poets, essayists, and prominent personages whom we have read and listened to and admired most of our lives. Taelen Thomas invited us into his house the other morning. We’re glad he did.



Taelen Thomas performing at a recent Tor House event

**Are you an actor, a monologist, a story-teller—how would you describe yourself?**

I like to think of myself as a bard. The very word suggests to me poetry. I’m particularly drawn to poets and poetry. When I perform, I think of myself as in a recital. Yes, I’m a performer, I speak or recite in the voices of many famous creative people. I perform what I call biographical dramas. I impersonate, say, John Steinbeck or Jack London or Dylan Thomas. I very often appear at Tor House, the home

of Robinson Jeffers, reading the work of the poet. Those words of the writers or poets that I’m speaking or reading express the essence of those artists.

**Have you always wanted to be a performer? What were you thinking of as a kid?**

For a time, I thought maybe I’d be a football hero. Then, why not play baseball? I guess I figured out those weren’t realistic goals. Do kids really have goals in childhood? I guess it was when I was teaching a class in philosophy, I discovered the students wanted or needed something more stimulating in the hour.

I began to add poetry and literature to the curriculum. It seemed to enliven the students, and the teacher as well. A career in the making.

**Your beginnings. What brought you to Carmel?**

I grew up in Michigan, moved on to Ohio, and at 18 came out west to attend Stanford to study philosophy. Even then at an early age I was interested in this place, Carmel. Every chance I got I jumped onto my motorcycle and hustled

By Tom Parks



down the coast to a place that seemed magical to me.

**In all the different characters you portray is there one character who gives you the most satisfaction in performance?**

There are several. Mark Twain is a favorite of mine and it seems also a special favorite of my audiences. Then there is Jack London, telling of the early days of bohemian Carmel, the days of writers, artists, poets, actors, charlatans. A wild time in a kind of paradise. Then there is Ogden Nash, lovely guy, his upbeat poetry so tight and beautifully composed—great fun to recite. Ambrose Bierce, too. I’ve always used Bierce as some added spice to my programs. Steinbeck is a different story. There is the grouchy Steinbeck who says things like “Man is the only kind of critter that I know of who builds his own trap, baits it, sets it, and falls into it.” So, it’s that angle of Steinbeck that I love. Then there is Robert Burns. I recite him just about every year around his birthday. And I try my best to get the Scottish “burr” into the reading.

**Who are your audience, the people who follow your work no matter the artist you’re featuring, portraying? They’re there for a Taelen Thomas experience.**

They are many and I’m grateful for that. They’re people who appreciate poetry and music and language without the noise of enhanced sound, flash cameras, media hype. They’re enlightened and perceptive and informed. They know the poets and writers and the history of those I’m performing.

To recite for these audiences is very rewarding. You need to understand that I’ve been doing this for 50 years. And the reception to my work continues to be so very satisfying.

*The CRA thanks you for this time, Taelen Thomas. We’ll be watching for notices of your next recital. ■*



## Sustainability Corner Become an Energy Producer

As recently mentioned in Chip Rerig's Friday Letter, the State of California is planning more aggressive recycling regulations regarding food scraps and yard waste. As part of this effort, commercial operators participate in a program with GreenWaste and the Monterey Waste Management team to capture compostable kitchen waste. Agnes Martelet, Carmel's Environmental Compliance Manager, told us that every quarter over 30 tons of food waste, or about 40% of the total, are now kept out of the landfill. A while back, Sustainable Carmel spearheaded a successful program to encourage residents to participate in this program and now the CRA wants to make it even easier for you.

Some CRA members have sponsored the acquisition of compostable "Bio Bags" that can be picked-up at Carmel City Hall lobby, the Book Shrine at the Park Branch Library or at Barbara Livingston's driveway at the NW corner of San Carlos

and 13th. All you have to do is scrape your plates, including meat, bones, vegetables, nut shells and really anything food related, into the bag. When full simply drop the bag in the yellow bin at the Thursday Farmer's Market or in the yellow bin behind the wall in the driveway on the left (North) side of City Hall. Waste Management puts it through a process that heats it to over 350 degrees which produces methane gas that powers our wastewater treatment plant. The subsequent waste product is then sold as a low-cost compost product available



at Last Chance Mercantile at the Monterey Regional Waste Management facility in Marina. How cool is that! You'll be amazed at how much you'll collect and be a vital part of the 650+ strong CRA team that is helping the Village achieve our recycling goals.

If you want to buy your own bags, you can purchase 100 for about 14 cents each at Amazon: [www.bit.ly/biobags](http://www.bit.ly/biobags).

## Lighting Seminar for Businesses

The Carmel Residents Association and the Carmel Chamber of Commerce recently sponsored a lighting design seminar to educate business owners regarding the most efficient and effective way to light their interiors. Designer Meredith Nole and City Building Official Dick Bower informed attendees about recent lighting innovations and city codes governing downtown lighting. Meredith pointed out that in a visit to a downtown store, she noted 400 lighting fixtures serving no good purpose other than to brilliantly light the store interior. The lighting did nothing to showcase the merchandise, but in fact detracted from the intent to do so. Meredith had many examples of new light bulbs which could be used in existing light fixtures to promote sales and reduce the monthly electrical bills. CRA and the Chamber sent press releases and hand-delivered invitations in order to stimulate interest in the seminar, but unfortunately the seminar was not well-attended. Business owners lost a golden opportunity to learn how to improve lighting effectiveness by simply changing the bulb or adjusting the existing fixture.

Planning Director Marc Weiner and Senior Planner Marnie Waffle also attended the seminar. Hopefully some changes will be made in Carmel's lighting code to reflect information gleaned from Meredith's superb presentation.

## VIP Program Update

This issue of *The Voice* highlights Ken Spilfogel's Village Corner restaurant. Ken has generously offered 20% off of dinner at Village Corner as well as a 25% discount on bottled wine at dinner. He also offers 15% off at Flaherty's for lunch or dinner. These are two great offers and we truly appreciate Ken's support of the



CRA membership and our Village Incentive Program (VIP). We are also pleased to announce two new VIP participants: Pescadero Mexican Restaurant is offering 20% off your bill and Optique America is

offering 10% off eyeglass frames. Simply show your CRA VIP card to enjoy savings all around town! For a full list of participating restaurants & merchants go to: <https://www.carmelresidents.org/vip/>.

## Scout House Update

*There will be a listening session/workshop regarding the Scout House renovation project on November 12th at 6:30 pm at City Hall.*

## Recycling Facts

For those of us confused about recycling of bottles, jars, lids and caps, here's the definitive word:

- Plastic bottles and containers should be recycled with their plastic lids attached.
- Glass bottles and jars should be recycled separately from their metal lids, which are also recyclable.
- All items must be clean of food particles and oil before recycling. It takes only one dirty container to contaminate the entire truck load, which would then have to be diverted to the landfill as garbage!

## CRA Holiday Gala

Oh, come all ye faithful, and celebrate the Holiday Season with us. Join us as we gather once again at La Playa Hotel on December 14, 2019, for an evening of food, wine, spirits and fine company. Check-in will begin at 5:15 pm. The Cocktail Hour begins at 5:30 pm on the Pacific Terrace where red and white wines are included throughout the reception and dinner. A no-host bar will also be available.



Dinner in the Pacific Room begins at 6:30 pm with a Christmas salad of Salinas Valley greens with pomegranate seeds and goat cheese. This will be followed by a choice of:

- Flat iron steak with mushroom sauce, roasted marble potatoes and seasonal vegetables
- Marinated seared chicken with chicken au jus, polenta and seasonal vegetables
- Stuffed portobello wellington

A warm molten lava cake will be served for dessert along with coffee or tea.

We will have both a silent and live auction for unique items donated by CRA members and local businesses. Silent auction includes, among other items, restaurant dinners and whale-watching certificates. Live auction includes golf for four, Puerto Vallarta condo, Cos Bar party for six, and others. Proceeds will support CRA initiatives such as CRA educational programs, scholarships, music in the schools, etc.

Please mark your calendars for December 14 and send your check payable to CRA for \$65 per person. **We need to receive your check and entrée choice before December 1 in order to confirm your reservation.** Mail your check and entrée choice to:

Sue Taylor, 225 Crossroads Blvd.  
#168, Carmel, CA 93923

## Tradition Interrupted

Grass skirts and Hawaiian shirts remained in the closet this year, as our annual Luau in the Forest had to be cancelled due to slow response from members in making reservations. When CRA puts on events for members where catering is involved, we must receive checks by a certain time in order to purchase food and supplies.

*Please remember that your check is your reservation!*

## Stymied for the Perfect Gift?

CRA's book "Stories of Old Carmel" could be the answer, full of interesting vignettes of past Carmel personalities and events. It is available at Pilgrim's Way Bookstore, Carmel Drug Store, Carmel Bay Company and River House Books. This entertaining book is ideal for a hostess or birthday gift.

## The Voice Feedback

We are open to hear your comments and suggestions on what we've been doing and what you might like to see in future issues. Please send your thoughts and ideas to [carmelresidents@gmail.com](mailto:carmelresidents@gmail.com).

## CRA Dates to Remember

- **November 21 (Thursday)** – CRA Program "State of the Village." See page 1 for details.
- **December 14 (Saturday)** – CRA Holiday Gala at La Playa Hotel. See this page for details.
- **January 2020** – Be on the lookout for your annual membership renewal.

By Mary Condry



## Memorial Gifts



**Jan Anzini**  
by Kay Lubansky

## Honorary Gifts



**Barbara Livingston**  
by Bud and Judith Glickman



## CRA Communications Team

Barbara Livingston, Mary Condry,  
Tom Parks

Voice Editorial Board

**Monterey Bay Design**  
Voice Design & Production  
Website Design & Production

**Margaret Byrne**  
Communications Director

**Dale Byrne**  
Staff Photographer

**Nancy Twomey**  
Facebook Manager

**Carl Iverson and Vicky Kou**  
Voice Distribution

**Mary Condry**  
eMail Manager

**Frankie Laney**  
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## CRA Board of Directors

**Barbara Livingston, President**

**Fred Bologna, Vice President**

**Tim Twomey, Treasurer | Darlene Mosley, Secretary**

### MEMBERS

Dale Byrne, Daniel Cardenas, Janine Chicourrat, Mary Condry,  
Ann Nelson, Tom Parks, Ann Pendleton, Dick Stiles,  
Ken White, Jon Wolfe

*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.*

*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 Carmel Youth Center. And why? Because it's anniversary time. Our young people are cheering 70 years of a place of their own.

 **CHEERS** They're still burning but fewer and fewer of 'em. City Council has reduced (again) the number of beach fires. Less smoke, cleaner air and whiter beach sand. We're getting there, slowly, but we're moving to a cleaner environment along with concerned people the world over.

 **CHEERS** Hooray! No Verizon towers in our Village neighborhoods. Looking for an alternative, Verizon? Try Ma Bell.

 **CHEERS** To Carmel for sponsoring the annual Pumpkin Roll, Sandcastle Competition and Surf About which is celebrating its 37th year.

 **CHEERS** Let's be sure to vote for the 1/2% increase in sales tax on the March primary ballot. It costs money to run a city. Sales tax supports residents and helps pay for the high cost of tourism.

 **CHEERS... AND CHIDES**  How much does a hole-in-the-ground cost? That hole at Dolores and 5th is for sale. After a year or so seems we've become used to it. Some of us may miss it if it's ever sold. If not? Well, how about Carmel's first ever municipal swimming hole. Maybe an open-air bargain basement. Or the city could build a grand casino, a money-maker, slots and all. Just asking.

 **CHEERS** To Pine Cone reporter Mary Schley for 22 years of solid and impartial coverage of city issues and events.

 **CHEERS** To Mayor Potter and Councilmember Baron for recognizing that car week is a regional issue. Hopefully an environmental impact report will be prepared for the Monterey Peninsula.

 **CHEERS** To City Council for moving forward incrementally with plans for the beautification, traffic calming, and installation of bicycle lanes on lower San Carlos St.

 **CHEERS** For the dissolution of FORA (Ft. Ord Reuse Authority). It had long served its purpose.



*Engineering work has begun on lower San Carlos.*