



# the VOICE

OF THE CARMEL RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION

CELEBRATING 38 YEARS OF COMMUNITY SERVICE

DEC ♦ JAN ♦ FEB 2024-2025

## Wrapping Up 2024 – Enter 2025

It's the Holiday Season. And they're over – elections, both national and local. With the decision hand wringing behind us. Whatever our individual preferences were, we have to learn to live with the outcome, move on either to quietly celebrate or accept what is. Congratulations to our new Mayor-Elect Dale Byrne. His City Hall journey is just beginning. May we suggest a chat with three former mayors, Dave Potter, Sue McCloud, and Ken White. They've been there; done that. Might just be a healthy start to the next two years.



Equal congrats to our new City Council members Hans Buder and Bob Delves. Good luck fellows, the Council has a new look, and we can hope with your inclusion, some new ideas.



There are always challenges ahead, always are. We, speaking of the Council and citizens, need to consider all things Carmel including, but not limited to, our pristine beach, forest, and infrastructure – take a deep breath. And speaking of housing, Sacramento needs to know, *really be told*, that one size doesn't fit all. (Repeat this mantra).

**Fast forward to the Holidays.** It was Dickens, well his writings, including the old chestnut, *A Christmas Carol*, which arguably defines how we celebrate December 25<sup>th</sup>. (What's wrong

with chestnuts?) The glitter, the lights, the ohhs and ahhs of children everywhere. In the old days – let's just say in the distant past – Dick and Jane might expect an orange, a packet of nuts, maybe pencil box tucked away in a hanging stocking pinned to the fireplace mantle.

What a difference a hundred years makes. Dick and Jane have been replaced by Noah and Emma. The stockings are hanging only for nostalgia's sake these days. What's important is the loot under the plastic tree. Ohh, a new Tablet, and it folds! Ahh, an electric bike with sidecar! What's this, an XBOX – Wow. Beats the \*\*\*\* out of a pencil box.

Holidays are for families, real and inherited. It's a different time in this century. Many families are distances apart. Many people, both young and older, live alone. And so, families are oftentimes invented. Friends gather to celebrate. Friends with close bonds throughout the years join in holiday celebrations just as Dick and Jane's family did in the past. This time around Emma will bring the vegetables while Noah, the wine. Red or white? Bring both, Noah. The host will prepare the turkey. Let's be honest here: He or She's ordered it at Safeway "with all the trimmings." Mash or yams? Peas and carrots or green beans? Larry's a vegan. Always one in a crowd. Finish with pumpkin pie or what's it called, ambrosia? A fine time had by all.

And speaking of a fine time, the CRA wishes all our members, in fact, all our Carmel neighbors, a happy, safe, and thoughtful holiday season. A new year is coming. We'll be there doing what we've done for our citizens for 37, now 38 years in January. Working to preserve the history and character of this tiny "Village in a Forest by the Sea."

**Happy Holidays and New Year. ■**



# PRESIDENT'S Message

## Holding True – Then and Now

On behalf of the Carmel Residents Association Board of Directors, we hope everyone has had a wonderful Fall. In a newsletter published earlier this year we identified five themes that we thought would emerge in 2024... Safety, Communication, Participation, Transparency and Teamwork.

We have certainly experienced all five of these themes in the last few months and throughout the year with Safety clearly rising to the top. We believe the Mayor said it best... "The events of October 25 are absolutely heartbreaking and shocking for our Village." We also understand that this incident affects us all in very personal ways - there is no right or wrong way. The Carmel Residents Association is here to contribute in any appropriate way to the important healing after this tragic event.

It has been a spirited election season in Carmel-by-

the-Sea. We congratulate Dale Byrne for winning the Mayor's seat at the dais along with Hans Buder and Bob Delves joining the City Council. The Carmel Residents Association is looking forward to continuing to build on the collaboration,

By Graeme Robertson



communication and teamwork with the Mayor, City Council members and staff that we have established over the years for the benefit of our Village.

We hope to see (have seen) many of you at our Annual CRA Christmas Gala December 8<sup>th</sup> event to celebrate one another, our Village and so much more.

On behalf of the CRA Board of Directors, we wish you warm and safe Holidays and a Happy New Year. We are grateful for your support and participation.

Looking forward to seeing you around town. ■

Graeme



## February 4th, 1965 – The Carmel Secret

*"The Carmel Pine Cone has been published 2,590 times before today. In the bound volumes, kept in the editorial office, is the history of Carmel from the year before it became a city – until today. What a fascinating story – of people – and what people!*

*But it seems, after studying the records of the past 50 years, that the people of Carmel do not change. They will fight, for and against, any civic proposal. But that is where the secret of Carmel lies.*

*Carmelites are politically alert. They form their opinions. They defend their rights. They love their town. And, after issues have been debated and decided in a democratic way, they hold no grudges.*

*The person who was an opponent yesterday is a friend today... and probably ready and willing to battle, side by side, with his or her former foe on another issue.*

*So, the years have passed.*

*This edition is dedicated to each and every Carmelite in the past 50 years. A precious crew!*

**M.L. Editor"**

This was penned by editor of *The Carmel Pine Cone*, Marjory Lloyd. May her words from the past remain true today: that we remain friends after votes have been counted for Mayor and Council, and that we work together to preserve Carmel-by-the-Sea, the town we love.

*(as presented in open comments at City Council by Cindy Lloyd Nov 5, 2024)*

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## “The Right to Vote is also a Duty to Vote”

**WHERE:** Carmel-by-the-Sea, California  
**WHEN:** April 1940  
**WHAT:** Municipal Election

There were no provocative issues in the 1940 local election to raise excitement or stir controversy. Seven men were seeking the four council seats, the high number of positions open due to the recent resignation of a sitting councilor. One candidate emphasized the need for “better streets.” Another focused on annexing into the village the adjoining neighborhoods. A third promised “a conservative and economical administration...” After the high-octane election of 1938, when a slate of candidates campaigned on righting the Ship of the City, and won, a quiet mood permeated the 1940 plebiscite.

A wee bit more interest was in the race for the elected city clerk’s position where twenty-year incumbent Saidee Van Brower was challenged by her assistant, Peter Mawdsley. The clerk’s battle was the contest in 1940, of such interest that newspaper headlines following the election blazed with Saidee’s victory, relegating the outcome of the council race to second-tier stature.

Archibald MacPhail, the new owner/editor of *The Carmel Pine Cone*, sensed the electoral doldrums of the council race. Dull elections manifest diminished voter participation. In the 1938 municipal election, 49 percent of the eligible voters had cast their franchise. MacPhail took two actions to spur electoral enthusiasm. He endorsed his professional, local newspaper competitor W. K. Bassett of the *Carmel Cymbal*, for one of the council positions. The owners/editors of *The Pine Cone* and *Cymbal* had deep veins of antagonism toward each other over the years, and MacPhail’s support of Bassett shocked Carmelites.

It was MacPhail’s second decision, announced in the editorial in late March, that awakened a somnolent electorate. “*The Carmel Pine Cone* in its issue of April 15<sup>th</sup> the issue immediately following the coming election, will publish the names of

those registered voters in Carmel who fail to exercise their right to vote.” “There are at present 1688 persons within the City limits of Carmel who are eligible to cast their ballots on April 9<sup>th</sup>. We shall publish the names of those who don’t.”

MacPhail and his family had come to Carmel in 1934-35 for a vacation. When the opportunity arose in late 1939 to pur-



chase *The Pine Cone*, Arch MacPhail acted. At thirty-three years of age, he had “cut his teeth” at the *New York Herald Tribune* and published articles “in many magazines throughout the country,” as his introduction to *Pine Cone* readers recounted.

The owner/editor expected pushback to his “who-didn’t-vote-dictum,” and in his March editorial, he penned “...there will be some who will have legitimate reasons for not casting their ballots, through illness and such things.” It is our hope that through publication of the names of those who can vote but don’t, we may be instrumental in increasing the total number of ballots cast in the coming election.”



MacPhail succeeded. In the April 9<sup>th</sup> election, the greatest number of voters to date in Carmel’s history participated – sixty-eight percent! Patting himself on the back, MacPhail editorialized that the vote “bears out *The Pine Cone’s* contention that the right to vote is also a duty to vote. We are very pleased that we were able in any way to contribute towards a greater use of the ballot.”

Titled “THE LIST,” MacPhail individually named, by voter precinct, the “five hundred of so names” of those who did not vote. “Among these names you will find people who have died, who have moved away and even, some that don’t exist...”

Even MacPhail came to realize the voters registration list needed attention, for he noted that names included “a printer who left *The Pine Cone* years ago, and a former editor and many others who we know are not ever going to vote in Carmel again. However, rather than attempt to judge what names should be published and what should not, we have included them all.”

Amongst the “five hundred or so names” were some Carmel notables. Former city councilors Helen Parkes and Fredrick Bechdolt; former post-mistress Stella Vincent; and previous *Pine Cone* owners Ross and Thelma Miller, who had moved to Bakersfield and purchased the *Kern Daily Herald* in 1939, after selling the Carmel newspaper in 1938.

In the weeks following the printing of the listing, no Letters to the Editor were published. On May 3, in an editorial, MacPhail opined “we looked for some boomerang about our heads – and there was none.”

Two months later, MacPhail announced the sale of *The Pine Cone* to Carlos Drake, becoming the shortest tenured owner/editor in the newspaper’s history, at nine months. ■

# The Playhouse

“One fire burns out, another’s burn

And that playhouse is Carmel’s historic Golden Bough. Which Golden Bough you may ask? The answer is the third. But wait, with the complete remodel we could argue that it is the fourth. Here’s a short history.

One creative fellow by the name of Edward Kuster came to town in 1920. Two years later he designed and built the Court of the Golden Bough on Ocean Avenue. The “experimental” play house was also incorporated into the courtyard. The courtyard is very much just as it was minus the theater at the back of the Court. Why minus the theater? Just eleven years of its operating the Golden Bough Theater burned; it was gone.

From the ashes on Ocean Avenue came a new iteration for the theater in the mid-30’s, this time on Monte Verde. The second Golden Bough opened with a fanfare and thrived to entertain local audiences for many years with theatrical pieces and films. Alas, another disaster was in the wings, for in 1949, one week after opening, the Golden Bough Playhouse again burns to the ground. This should have been the end of the run, the closing of the show, the final curtain. But...

Our friend Kuster was out of money. Would he rebuild? Again? He did with a grand fund raising effort. And so, in 1952 the new, the present Golden Bough was built for a cost of \$185,000 with 330 seats. At that time there was far more interest in films than live theater. And so, the Golden Bough became essentially a movie house until movie houses were going the way of vaudeville.

*NOTE:* The two devastating fires in Golden Bough 1 and 2, the play on stage in each instance was the very same – a minor pastiche titled “*By Candlelight*.” No kidding. “Blow out your candles, Laura.” Tennessee Williams, *The Glass Menagerie*.

Enter a new era.

A young local actor/producer-to-be, Stephen Moorer comes on the scene. Not just on the scene but in his automobile in front of the shuttered theater. And, by golly, it’s for sale. At that time Moorer is producer in residence of Monterey’s Pacific Repertory Theater and he’s looking for a new permanent home. As it happened (mainly in fiction) Moorer manages to come up with the sale price for the defunct Monte Verde building, \$1.2 million. It’s a done deal. Pac Rep moves into Carmel. It’s 1995. Arthur Miller’s *Death of a Salesman* is the opening play.



There have been years of the Golden playwrights, experimental offerings, musicals, and more. Nearly if not all the bard’s oeuvre.

Pacific Repertory is arguably one of the most professional nonprofit theater companies in the world. Its founder/artist with the creative drive to p



and sound – all technology and security are being extended, and new seating wrapping is being installed.

For those who wish to support Pacific Repertory Theater in a show” there are a number of opportunities.

# It's The Thing

BY TOM PARKS

...ning, one pain is lessen'd by another's anguish."

*Romeo and Juliet*



your name in brass? Or perhaps an engraved paver at the lobby entrance. Now then, if your ship's come in or you've won the lottery you might consider taking a seat on the Donor Wall. Check your bank balance before committing. The kids gotta eat.

It's all new and exciting on Monte Verde. What's not new (but still exciting) is the quality of performances that greet audiences with each new production just as in the past.

"Attention must be paid." Arther Miller's *Death of a Salesman*. And indeed, it must. The Golden Bough is a treasure its keepers have kept alive over these many years and have enhanced and nourished its historic significance. Not unlike Harrison Memorial Library and Sunset Cultural Center - Golden Bough *is* Carmel. The play's the thing...but so's the playhouse. ■

Bough productions: plays by modern authors, lectures and, of course, Shakespeare.

the finest and most successful production in the country. Steven Moorer is the man of the play to over 25,000 enthusiastic people each year. The statistics get even better: Moorer has produced close to 500 productions played to over a million audience members.

And not another milestone in Carmel's history. The remodeling and reimagining of the Golden Bough. The remodel cost estimated at \$10 million. This is a complete renovation from stage to auditorium to lobby. The curtain has parted with an opening play, *POTUS*, a comedy.

Dark for four years the "new" Golden Bough has 288 seats, as well as all interior enhancements including modern theater lighting and sound advancements. The revolving stage will be a highlight around that stage.

Step beyond buying "a ticket to see a play." How about a seat plaque with



# ABOUT *Town*

## Village Staff, Council, Commissions

### ▶ GOING NONSTOP

Most of the CRA “Hot Topics” have received citizen comments by our City Council, Forest & Beach Commission, and Planning Commission in regular meetings, workshops, and Ad Hoc sessions this Fall.

Progress is underway on the **Forest Master Plan** reviews with two October workshops – while we anxiously await a revised recommended tree list that respects our dominant 4 native species and reconstitutes critical content from the 2002 version that was left behind. The “Forest of our Village trees” will thrive best when properly placed, maintained, replaced iteratively and when they are in close proximity to each other.

Yes, the current Village **No Addresses** saga seems to be a favorite topic of many in the Press - and of course by many in our Village. A majority on our Council was concerned that changing a 108 year tradition without more citizen engagement was premature as was previ-

ously decided in July. At the September City Council, they pivoted to requiring more open community discussions or workshops. And the direction given was to put the Address topic on a future November 2025 Ballot to officially tally citizen views – before any go ahead could be considered.

We saw and provided feedback on a second major draft of the long awaited **ADU Ordinance** in November – hoping this will come back early next year for the multiple approval steps ahead. Plus, a new “Considering an ADU” property owner guide has been published in November. City Staff continues working the plans in our certified Housing Element and is also partnering with the AHA citizens committee laser focused on uncovering community acceptable alternatives to the City Owned properties for affordable housing. Routine City Council reports on progress are provided - with 5 AHA updates since June this year.

Chief Tomasi led two **Security Camera Ad Hoc** meetings to review the

*By Nancy Twomey*



technology and receive community concerns on quantity/placement of cameras and security/privacy – all in preparation for an anticipated Flock contract revision and renewal coming due in March. Again, Chief Tomasi was on deck for two recent sessions covering the State mandated **AB413 Parking-Daylighting** legislation requiring line of sight as you approach downtown intersections. He provided a plan and an Ordinance that decreases 30 parking spots, expecting it's last approval at December's City Council. Finally, the recommended schematics for the in-place remodel of the Village **Police Station** have been submitted to the City – with a public meeting anticipated yet this 2024 year.

As these new and existing Council members kick start the New Year – they also anticipate a public **Strategic Priorities** review and update session. ■

## 'Tis the Season...for Winter Storms, UGH!

Yes, this is the time when we can usually expect heavy rains and nasty winds – that can impact power and the safety of our residents. Be sure to check out Carmel Prepares! our City Readiness Resources on the City's website at <https://ci.carmel.ca.us/carmel-prepares>. A community session was held Nov 16<sup>th</sup> providing guidance and recommendations that we hope you attended. The City-wide and beyond teams are ready to aid if needed. We are blessed with the best local CERT, Police, Fire, Ambulance and Public Works. ■

## Enjoy and Participate - December through February

### CLOSING OUT 2024!

- Dec 3 – City Meeting - Regular City Council 4:30PM in Council Chambers (existing Council)
- Dec 6 – City Holiday Celebration 4-6:30PM on Ocean Avenue & Junipero
- Dec 8 – CRA's Members Annual Holiday Gala at La Playa – reservations required
- Dec 9 – **SPECIAL** City Meeting - Swearing in the NEW City Council, Monday 4:30PM
- Dec 13-15 – The Nutcracker at Sunset Center
- Dec 24-25 – Christmas Holidays
- Dec 31-Jan 1 – New Years Holidays



- Planning Commission 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesdays 4PM in Council Chambers
- Forest & Beach Commissions 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursdays 2:30PM in Council Chambers
- Plus - Village Farmers Market every Thursday 10AM-2PM Junipero & 6<sup>th</sup>

### SIGNIFICANT EARLY 2025 PUBLIC EVENT/DATES

- 1/20 Martin Luther King Jr Day\*
- 1/29-2/2 AT&T Pebble Beach National Pro Am Tournament
- 2/14 Valentine's Day
- 2/17 Presidents Day\*
- \* City Offices are closed, plus this end of year Christmas and New Years holidays as well.

### ROUTINE CITY/CIVIC MONTHLY MEETINGS

- Regular Council 1<sup>st</sup> Tuesdays 4:30PM in Council Chambers

### NEXT CARMEL PUBLIC LIBRARY FOUNDATION PROGRAMS

- Jan 8<sup>th</sup> Literary Luminaries - 6 Trailblazing Writers who shaped Carmel
- Jan 22<sup>nd</sup> Timeless Treasures - Preserving... Architectural Conservation ■

## Fall Village Fun – in case you missed it



## Your CRA Board Needs YOU – Twice!

**Nominations for our CRA Board** – We have two spots open for two Members who support the CRA Mission in a CRA Board role and have time to contribute to our Village cause and activities. Whether it's for yourself or you are nominating another CRA member – we look for folks who



live in Carmel-by-the-Sea or its Sphere of Influence and are a CRA member for 6 months or more. We request these nominations are submitted by **March 1<sup>st</sup>**. Details on how to Nominate can be found at the bottom of our webpage [www.carmelresidents.org/board-of-directors](http://www.carmelresidents.org/board-of-directors). ■

**Nominations for the Carmel Citizen Of The Year** – This every two year celebration is held at the end of March or early April – with regional dignitaries and an impressive roster of former recipients. This is your opportunity to shine a light on local heroes – some who are behind the scenes or some who may be well known. We need your nominations by **February 20<sup>th</sup>**. The past Citizens of the Year and the required qualifications for nominations are provided at the bottom of our webpage [www.carmelresidents.org/cras-citizen-of-the-year](http://www.carmelresidents.org/cras-citizen-of-the-year). ■

Citizen of the Year

## It's been a busy CRA Fall Social Season

Since you last received our fall issue of *The Voice* – we've gathered at the Feast in the Forest – a western themed event with live music and an outstanding raffle too; we've hosted the Candidates Forum (it was standing room only and our program videos have received almost 1000 views); we marched in 108<sup>th</sup> Anniversary/ Halloween Parade; we've held a post-election No-Host gathering

at the Links in Carmel Plaza and depending on how quickly our printing and postal make moves – we will have celebrated at the Annual CRA Members Holiday Gala December 8<sup>th</sup>. A sampling of photos are below, these and more details are available on our website. And a big extra thanks to our CRA Board members, plus many others who've made these all a great success and fun too. ■



## And here comes CRA 2025

### It's Membership Renewal Season

**Y**es, it is that time. Our Membership year is January through December. Your renewal envelope is included in this *Voice* issue for your convenience – to renew by check. For those of you who receive email from CRA – you will receive a PDF renewal invoice that you can click to pay with your credit card. Renew to receive our sincere appreciation for your continued support of our organization and receive your 2025 VIP Membership Benefits card in return mail. ■



### More Program Dates Coming Soon

**P**lease make sure we have your current email address – as we are finalizing program dates in February and beyond. With our new City Council getting their “Carmel-by-the-Sea legs,” the anticipated Strategic Priorities workshop, and other special City meetings in January – we are targeting a CRA program and/or No-Host in February. If you don't email, please watch our CRA website or *The Carmel Pine Cone Calendar* for the latest. ■





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Place  
Stamp  
Here

### CRA Membership

Please join or renew your annual membership at \$50 Individual, \$75 Couple, \$150 Benefactor, or \$1000 Lifetime by visiting our website. Enjoy CRA benefits for members only. And your donations keep our 38 years of content and programs relevant for all.

### CRA Board of Directors

**Graeme Robertson, President** | **Ken White, Vice President**  
**Tim Twomey, Treasurer** | **Frankie Laney, Secretary**  
**Sherry Shollenbarger, At Large**

#### DIRECTORS

Mike Brown, Janine Chicourrat,  
Mary Condry, Sara Harnish, JC Myers, David O'Neil,  
Nancy Twomey, Sherry Williams

*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

**CHIDES & CHEERS** Good bye Hans Buder as you depart our CRA Board of Directors. And welcome Hans Buder as you take your seat joining our Village Council. Congratulations.

**CHEERS** What do you know, 93921 is back in business. Not a trace of the auto or driver. Let's face it, the building is no architectural beauty - never was. Still, it's comforting to be able to walk through the door.



**CHIDES** Have you visited The Pit lately? There's a rumor out that archaeologists are planning a dig. You know, searching for old coins, ancient bones. All of this is being promoted by the stranger of many properties. He's calling it Carmel's Pompei. Tickets are on sale now.

**CHIDES** The local Congress of Curmudgeons wonder if it's really imperative to roll pumpkins down Ocean Avenue. Instead, what about carving faces on the gourds, they ask? Every pumpkin with a frown. Go for it, guys.

**CHEERS** The CRA Website is a must see online. Over all of October, our CRA home page had over 45,000 visits. More than double the visits in August with Car Week going on. We hope you agree this is great online destination with everything you want to know about events, meetings, and critical topics for Carmel-by-the-Sea.



#### Holiday Season "TO DO" List

- ✓ Buy Be Presents
- ✓ Wrap Gifts Someone in a Hug
- ✓ Send Gifts Peace
- ✓ Shop for Donate Food



**CHEERS** Depending on your personal choices, of course, the never-ending election season is behind us. No more hand wringing, laughter, tears, anger - it's all in the past. The political future? Yet to come.

**CHEERS** Thank you in advance those who renew their CRA membership before March 31! Renewal invoices were emailed that you can open to pay by credit card online. Or a renewal envelope is attached to this issue for those who prefer to pay by check. Our sincerest appreciation for your continued support.

