

the VOICE

OF THE CARMEL RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION

CELEBRATING 37 YEARS OF COMMUNITY SERVICE

JANUARY ♦ FEBRUARY 2024

All About Carmel 2024—A Busy Agenda

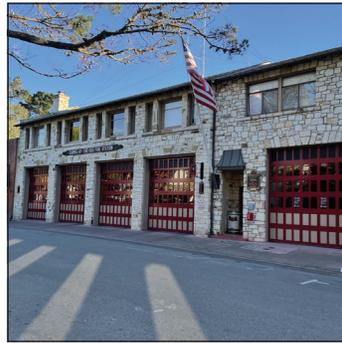
Decisions, decisions, decisions. Hold on to your hat and patience, it's going to be a busy year. The City of Carmel has work to do—but mostly listen to its citizens. The agenda for 2024 is long and complicated. Conclusions, and we can only hope for resolutions, and will not please everyone.

The list is long and, in many instances, dense. The City Council very well might be burning the proverbial midnight oil. But that's their job. There's no reason to believe they're not up for it. We'll see; stay tuned.

Below is a partial listing of Council and committee responsibilities which, if addressed, will affect all Carmel-ites.

A program of enhanced integration between Fire and Ambulance services—the time has come. Fire is managed by Monterey, Ambulance by Carmel. A marriage might just or should be arranged.

Carmel's Police station sits on far too much wasted space. Renovation needs not only to be considered but put to the architect's table. The present building is not unattractive but spatially it doesn't work for today's needs.



Is there anyone in town who can find room for 349 new living spaces? Run, don't walk to City Hall. It's a daunting demand, and that's just what it is, a demand by the State of California. This conundrum will not easily

be solved. More midnight oil.

Wine tasting in the forest? (*actually, in outdoor private spaces*) Or on the steps of the library or, for that matter, on a bench in front of All Saints. Outdoor wine tasting is on this year's agenda. Curiouser and curiouser. What'll you have, white or red?

What more can possibly be said about Flander's Mansion that hasn't already been bandied about for fifty years. Sell the place.



Rent the place. Turn it into a nightclub. Or a shelter for stray cats. Put it on the agenda for 24 hours and move on, chances are we'll be talking about this for a few more years.

Big brother is watching you. City Council must make some decisions regarding cameras in the Village. Cameras outside on polls, on trees, on stop signs (every place but Flander's mansion). Do citizens find cameras intrusive? Some will, surely. And then there is the aesthetic to consider. Of course, there's the argument that in today's US all or most towns and cities have security cameras. And yet, one could conclude that "it's just not Carmel." Up for grabs. Smile for the camera.



Perhaps the item that should appear at the top of the list, the one that affects every house in Carmel, is numbers. Numbers as in house numbers. Residents seem split on the idea. Those in favor say it's just logical. Others say we're not talking logic, we're talking character and tradition. For: UPS can't find me. Against: Numbers will bring mail delivery and the end to Carmel PO. What to do? The decision will surely not please everyone. Have we said that?



It's election year. Who's running; who's not. What's on the ballot? Will the mayor seek reelection? Will City Council members be challenged by newbies? Months away. Time to take a stand. Our one chance to speak our collective mind. There are other issues facing us this year, more work to be done. With common sense, a belief in the democratic process, and a sensibility for the beauty of this Village in a Forest by the Sea we can only hope for a consensus. Compromise is not a four-letter word. One could argue that complaisance is. Speak up, voters. ■

PRESIDENT'S Message

2023 Done, 2024 Here We Come!

Happy New Year. We hope that everyone had a wonderful Holiday Season. Thank you to all who attended our Holiday Gala at the La Playa with a special thanks to Nancy Twomey, Frankie Laney, Janine Chicourrat and Tim Twomey for organizing such a festive event.

We had a lot to celebrate in 2023 including our participation in most of the City meetings, the CRA Membership Survey, the CRA membership mixers, Beach clean-ups, Feast in the Forest, the Laird/Addis Town Hall moderated by Paul Miller to name a few. None of this would be possible without the support of you, our members, along with your hardworking Board of Directors.

2024 will be an engaging, important, and exciting year as well.

We begin our program year with interesting and interactive programs. First, we will host an evening with Paul Miller, the owner/publisher of the *Carmel Pine Cone*, on January 23. The next program will be a fireside chat with the five City Department Directors on February 21.

We encourage you to be involved in one or all of the many issues concerning our cherished Village. In addition to the agenda items covered on Page 1, there is work coming up or already underway on Design Guidelines, Design Standards, Landscape Ordinance, revised ADU Ordinance, Forest Master Plan, Mills Act Policy, defining the programs in our Housing Element, Paid Parking, and many other topics that impact Carmel-by-the-Sea. Your Board of Directors engages in all these issues, along with many of you, helping to guide the Residential Character of our Village.

On behalf of the Board of Directors, we are looking forward to collaborating with you in 2024 for the benefit of our beloved Village. Looking forward to seeing you around town. ■

Graeme

By Graeme Robertson



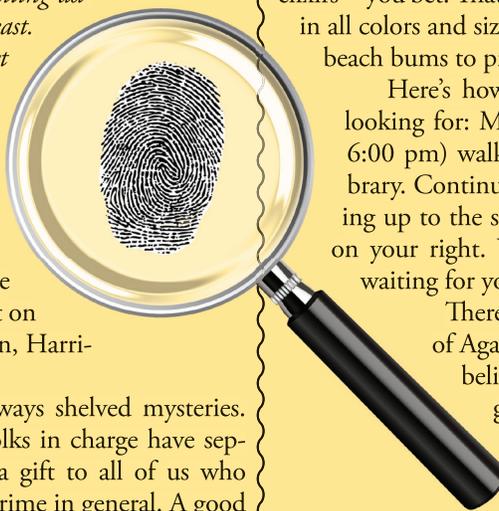
REMINDER: The Carmel Residents Association is a civic non-profit organization, now celebrating our 37th year in 2024 of serving our community and residents. Our efforts and value depend on your membership dues and donations. January and February is the time of year for membership renewal. In this issue of *The Voice*, we include a return envelope for your annual renewal or to join us officially. We are grateful for your membership that supports the programs, content, and events that the CRA provides each year. Our members include full-time residents, part-time residents, homeowners, renters, businesses, employees, city staff, folks who plan to make Carmel their home, and frequent visitors who want to preserve Carmel-by-the-Sea for all to enjoy in the years to come. If you love our Village and want to keep connected, informed, and enjoy our town culture please join the CRA. It's easy to renew, join and/or donate either online at carmelresidents.org, or via postal mail. Thank you in advance for your support.

OK, let's sit down in front of the old Philco five tube and listen. First there's the inevitable static every time we tune in followed by heavy, ponderous organ music. And then, a deep, resonating voice: *I LOVE A MYSTERY*. "Let's join Jack, Doc, and Reggie at the A=1 Detective Agency for another exciting adventure brought to you by Fleischmann's Yeast. Jack's been held captive in a Gypsy desert tent, and it's up to Reggie to free him. Last time Reggie was just approaching the tent when he was seized by . . ." Well, you get it, the glorious days of radio.

Actually, we're not talking about radio here but mysteries. Why? Because we all love a mystery. And where's the best place to find a mystery today? Right on the corner of Ocean Avenue and Lincoln, Harrison Memorial Library.

To be accurate, our library has always shelved mysteries. The difference today is that the wise folks in charge have separated mysteries from general fiction, a gift to all of us who crave to read of murder, mayhem, and crime in general. A good

I Love A Mystery



blood-soaked armchair, a knife, a stiff— what more could we want? Well, let's hope we find the killer on page 249.

Classic mysteries, crime novels, murder and mayhem fiction, true crime featuring hidden graves: bloody axes, poison elixirs—you bet. That's what fans are looking for. And fans come in all colors and sizes. Elegant ladies in sun bonnets to scruffy beach bums to preachers who need a break from goodness.

Here's how to find any who-done-it you might be looking for: Monday thru Friday at 10:00 am (closes at 6:00 pm) walk through the main entry to Harrison Library. Continue to the second stairway on your right going up to the second level. Stop. Now, turn to the stacks on your right. You're there. Thousands of mysteries just waiting for you.

There is word going around town that the ghost of Agatha Christy is a docent in the stacks. Don't believe it. We have absolute proof that the real ghost is Dorothy L. Sayers. Or maybe *The Woman in White*. It's a mystery. ■

Tom Parks

CRA Communications

Nancy Twomey
Communications Director/Publisher

Tom Parks
Editor

Mary Condry
Proofreader

Monterey Bay Design
Voice Design & Production

Frankie Laney
Mailing Team

His Imprint Lives On

This column continues a series of stories on the owners/publishers/editors of *The Carmel Pine Cone* during its first fifty years, which began in 1915.

(FLASHBACK: Perry Newberry becomes part owner of the *Pine Cone* in December 1926, Allen Griffin of the *Monterey Daily Herald* being the other proprietor. Griffin sold his position in April 1930 to Hal Garrott, a New York playwright who had relocated to Carmel. In two years, Garrott, with one of his plays preparing for the stage in New York, would return East and transfer his financial stake to Ronald Cockburn. Newberry continued his ownership position.)

By 1934, Perry Newberry's lingering health issues--heart and lung--- were more prevalent. He took several leaves of absence from the newspaper, the longest in 1929 when he and wife Bertha temporarily relocated to Los Gatos. In the autumn of 1934, Newberry sold his half-interest to Ross Miller, becoming Associate Editor. Cockburn continued as the business manager. Miller had been managing editor of a Bakersfield (California) publication.

After selling his financial interest in the newspaper, Newberry would periodically submit columns to *The Pine Cone* until his death in December 1938. He authored a story in September 1937, titled "A Veteran Editor Looks at Carmel." Two months before his passing, a column titled "From the Hilltop," praised the financial stability of the Carmel Art Association, and referenced a new structure in the downtown. "Another cleverly constructed building on Ocean avenue (sic) pleases the eye and adds to the Village attractiveness. It doesn't take any big sum to change a store front from an eye-sore to an optical pleasure" he penned.

Newberry's death would demarcate the start of a twenty-eight-year dearth before the ed-op pages of *The Pine Cone* crackled again

with lively, colorful, whimsical, columns. In that quarter century-plus, the editorials/columns were mostly languid and stuporous, dull, and listless. In the years of the Drake ownership (1940-42) both the news and ed/op pages primarily focused on international events. (More on Drake in the next edition.)

The eight years of Perry Newberry's editorship of the *Pine Cone* were special. Here



By Doug Schmitz

the streets. We have garages for the purpose of housing cars, and streets for the use of traffic, and we like each in its right place."

April 1932, at the time of the municipal election: "The Carmel Street Plan, estimated to cost something like \$200,000, is the issue over which the battle is being fought. Fairly or unfairly, votes will be cast on election day for or against this issue, rather than for the candidates and their general policies."

December 1933: "The lack of the customary Christmas tree on Ocean Avenue (sic) this year gave Carmel an appearance of sombre (sic) gloom quite at variance with the holiday spirit that was radiating brilliantly throughout the Village. The few show windows that had been decorated in Christmas colors stood out more conspicuously because of the absence of the municipal tree, but Ocean Avenue (sic) was not a dazzlement of luminosity."

April 1934, a column reviewing the candidates for City Council: "Bringing us to Joseph Burge, the nurseryman. If I felt that this Village needed a watchdog to nip at the heels and growl its objections, prodding it ahead or directing its course this way or that, I would support Burge's candidacy. He is the ideal oppositionist. If Carmel were honey-combed with corruption,

and its governing body was dyed deep in graft, it might be well to have a Joe Burge upon the council.

But while we are all fairly honest, and nobody is expecting to get away with the general fund, it would be wiser to leave men of Burge's disposition outside the railing that separates sheep from goats in the council chambers. They can keep an eye out for high treason without interference with the advancement of city affairs."

...MORE NEXT TIME ■

Perry Newberry Is Dead

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are some quotes from his editorials.

April 1930, on the upcoming municipal election: "Within the next few years will be established the future of Carmel, whether as a Village of character and distinction, or the conventional small city of the seaside type."

September 1930, on parking: "Our summer guests may not know it, but Carmel has an ordinance against night parking on the streets. Cars may not be left out all night to be menace to those who must drive

Jeffers' Tor House

Robinson Jeffers' Tor House and Hawk Tower have an enthusiastic and highly qualified mentor in Tom Rusert, program coordinator and spokesperson for the poet's iconic property on Carmel Point. With careers in education, finance, science, he comes to Tor House with years of experience in public matters and nonprofits.

The Voice met with Mr. Rusert over coffee late in the year to talk about Jeffers, his literary legacy, and the remarkable public interest in his writing.

Over 1,500 visitors each year make the journey to Carmel for a view of Tor House where they will tour the house and tower and listen to dedicated docents reading the words of one of America's most admired poets.

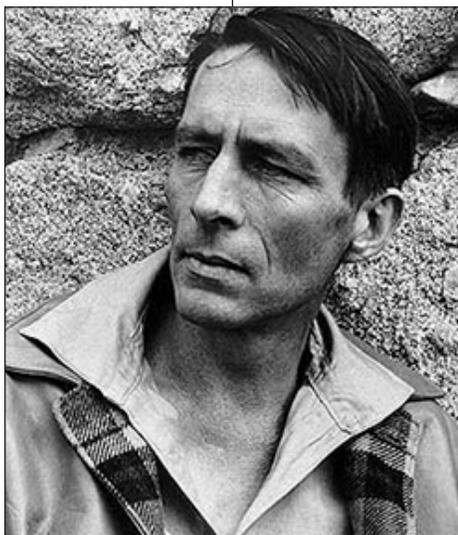
Much of the history of Tor House is well known (Google can help the uninitiated), still we had some questions for Mr. Rusert that may not be in the various search engines or brochures.

■ Tom Rusert, when did the poet and his wife, Una discover and settle in South Carmel, the Point?

1914, where they said they had "discovered the inevitable place" and that was the windswept, rocky shore where over decades Jeffers built his house and tower. His project began in 1918, modeled after an English Tudor barn. The great stones were delivered by horse cart to the property. It was not until 1949 that electricity was installed.

■ Much of the original property has been sold off over the years. Today one will find houses just west of the tower on Scenic Drive. But there is a story,

one that seems to have been lost in Jeffers' story: Is it true that he planted a maze behind the tower?



Indeed, he did. It existed until the mid-fifties. Replaced of course by new houses. There is no footprint of the maze today. But what good fun that must have been for family and friends. By the way, there are two Jeffers relatives living today—Lindsay, a grandson and Angus, a great grandson.

Let us quote from a brief biographical sketch

on Jeffers' work, his major poetical oeuvre: It was at Tor House that Jeffers wrote all his major poetical works and narratives. As he said, "this coast crying out for tragedy." In 1947 it was his adaptation of *Medea* that pulled him to the Broadway theater with his friend and star, Judith Anderson in the title role.



PHOTO CREDIT: LORI D'AMBROSIO

Robinson Jeffers was our neighbor from 1919 to 1962. His house and his tower stand tall as a kind of tribute to this man of literary genius. The property



By Tom Rusert

he treed with natives and eucalyptus; the latter not always welcomed today in the neighborhood.



■ Tom Rusert, you are a commanding force and leader in all things Jeffers. Your professional job description?

I am Program Coordinator for the Tor House Foundation on Carmel Point, chartered with creating education and outreach opportunities on the Monterey Peninsula and Salinas. I oversee recruiting and rebuilding the docent training support programs and arrange public tours at Tor House.

■ Now that you've alerted our readers of access to Jeffers' world please give us specifics—when can we visit?

Public tours are offered all year. Saturdays, with four tours: 10:00; 11:00; 12:00; 1:00.

Thank you, Tom Rusert. Many CRA members are members of the Tor House Foundation. For those who are not, this issue of The Voice should encourage many visits in the future. ■

CRA Programs

Tuesday January 23rd – CRA Hosts Paul Miller – *The Carmel Pine Cone* from Inside/Out.

Learn more how articles, placements, editorial and letters to the editor all end up in our weekly must reading. We will hear from Paul Miller, the owner, publisher, and editor since 1997. Now for 25 years, he and his team continue to produce an insightful weekly publication, worthy of national recognition in times when local press nationally is at risk.

- Do you want to know the answers to these questions? Or what is missing?
- How does Paul's background, prior to owning the *Carmel Pine Cone*, impact his management and what we read?
- How is *the Pine Cone* coverage different from other area news publications?
- What are a few of the controversial articles or editorials over the years?
- How does his publication balance serving visitors as well as area residents?
- How are articles selected for the front page?
- How does Paul considers topics for his editorial?
- How is the Police Log created?
- What feedback or letters to the editor are more valuable than others?

The Carmel Pine Cone

Wednesday, February 21st – CRA Hosts City Directors – On Point

A panel of each of City department leaders providing topical updates and taking your questions. The department heads on our Panel include (alphabetically):

- Assistant Administrator & HR - Maxine Gullo,
- Public Works Director - Bob Harary
- Community Planning Director - Brandon Swanson,
- Police Chief - Paul Tomasi, and
- Library and Community Activities Director - Ashlee Wright



Do these questions and project updates need to be asked? Or what is missing?

- We all love budgets of course and we realize there are always more asks than there are dollars or time. But do you have recommendations on how we provide feedback and comments that are the most impactful?
- What can we expect on the timing for updates on Paid Parking & Address Projects
- Are there facilities updates or changes in the works for our Libraries?
- Can you talk about new or revised plans for this coming year's Car Week?
- What can we expect in the upcoming Forest Master Planning revisions?
- What can the City do to educate residents on how to protect and care for their trees?
- What can or is being done to minimize surprises or objections to ADU being built next door? What are the protections in the draft ADU ordinance?
- Our Housing Element has many projects/programs that are required over time. What items do you plan to work on next?
- The Design Guidelines, Ordinance updates and follow-on Design Standards work is still underway, what is the current progress report?
- Will the Design Review Board scope be drafted after the completion of the Design Guidelines?
- How do the Department heads prepare for the semi-annual strategic priority sessions, and recommend new items too?
- Will the City consider floating a bond to finance the Police Station rebuild?
- When will the public hear more about the Security (Flock) Camera scope, policy, program, and placement review?

Your CRA Program Attendance and Participation – Be There!

Where & Timing - Both of these programs will be held at the Carmel Woman's Club at the corner of 9th and San Carlos. Doors open at 6:30PM to mingle and grab a glass of wine, then our programs will begin at 7:00PM. The public is welcome.

What Are Your Questions? – during both of these programs we will be asking questions. As time allows, we will ask your questions, and some shown here. Please email us at info@carmelresidents.org or call Nancy at 650-740-3477 with your questions. ■



ABOUT *Town*

Yes 2024 – is all about YOUR VOTE

With local, regional, state, and national reach – this is our chance to alter who represents us in all of these roles. In our Village – come the fall National/Presidential November 5th Election, we will have 3 nonpartisan positions on the ballot – City Mayor and two City Council member positions.



By Nancy Twomey



But yes, and first there is the California March 5th Primary Election where you may vote for many candidates beyond Carmel in roles at the Regional, State and Federal/National levels.

For those of you who live half-time or more in our Village, a former President of CRA routinely went door to door to encourage everyone to **be sure to register to vote here** – as your vote will have more impact here than in most large urban areas. And with the plethora of important local challenges ahead (mentioned throughout this issue) – who represents us will make a difference for decades to come! ■

Sacramento's Housing Bill Spaghetti

With 56 and counting Housing legislation bills signed this October by Governor Newsom, and previously 19 signed in 2019...local governments are swamped in a messy spaghetti of bills intending to streamline housing delivery...while they create massive overhead and penalties that will remove local controls. Plus, Sacramento expects a 68 Billion Dollar deficit in the coming year! There is a norm that says legislation must be understood to be accepted...and this is NOT the case with this flood of bills that are overlapping, contradicting laws, plus there are more in the pipeline!

Are you OK with Builders Remedy projects turning Carmel-by-the-Sea into Redondo Beach? Visit our CRA home page for a link to more on [Local Controls of Land Use and Zoning](#). Your comments, questions and suggestion are welcome. ■



HOT Topics Continue in 2024

Our City Council, Planning, Forest & Beach, Historic Resources Boards and Commissions, plus Steering Committees and Ad Hoc Meetings will be addressing many of the Hot Topics we've covered in CRA communications, are listed on our CRA website, and you've read about in the *Pine Cone*.

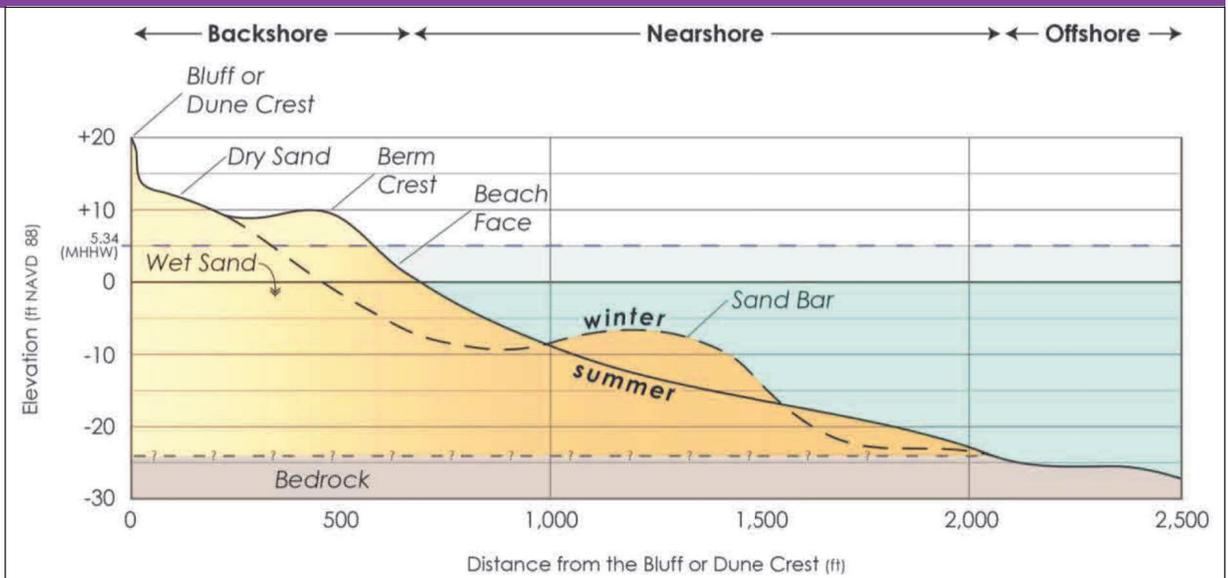
Village critical projects and decisions are coming up that include Paid Parking where both residents and businesses have firmly given thumbs down, the work on the Forest Master Plan – that must ad-

dress the needs to preserve our trees and keep our forest healthy and safe for years to come, the new ADU Ordinance and the Housing Element updates and follow-on program requirements – that make many of us very nervous, the public reviews of the results of the Design Traditions Steering Committee + Staff work and more.

Please make sure CRA has your email address YourName@whatever.com to keep you updated as these are scheduled, and results are shared. ■

Seasonal Sands of Carmel Beach

We've all observed the how nature changes our amazing Carmel City Beach. Check out this graph showing where and how the shifting sands move with the seasons. ■



CRA Membership Perks...just a few

Members Only – Social Events

Thanks to those of you who joined us at our La Playa Holiday Gala in early December – this is a must-not-miss annual holiday tradition in town. We also gather at many casual No-Hosts at eateries about town, our “Annual Meeting” in late May, and our Carmel Beach Party in mid-June. Plus, we host our end of Summer decompress, nosh, raffle and mingle at our Feast in the Forest in Pebble Beach.



...a sampling from our December and September Events – coming your way again in 2024 too.

Membership Discounts & Offers

With each new membership or annual renewal, you receive a new 2024 VIP card extending 50 offers and discounts from our great local business. These businesses value relationships with residents and look forward to our patronage. Our current roster includes offers from 18 restaurants and 38 other clothiers, services, art, furnishings, gifts, and entertainment.

Just a few of the newer offers include up to 15% off of furnishings from the Carmel Color House on San Carlos, 50% off for Tier 3 seating tickets for the Monterey Symphony at Sunset Center and a free Voice Map tour of places throughout our Village and beyond for each member. Don't miss out on other discounts for shoes, sox, salon visit, haircut, glass frames, alterations, knife sharpening, carpet cleaning, art and whale watching too.

Be sure to check out the full roster of Membership benefits with your VIP cards. And please nudge your favorite local businesses to consider adding their offer too.



CRA Coming Up This and Next Month

- ▶ See CRA at the Jan 25th & Feb 29th Carmel's Farmers Market – board members are there each last Thursday from January-October to catch up on the latest. (note: February's date is Leap day!)
- ▶ CRA Informational Programs (see full details on page 5)
 - Tuesday January 23rd – CRA Hosts Paul Miller – *The Carmel Pine Cone from Inside/Out*.
 - Wednesday, February 21st – CRA Hosts City Directors – *On Point* a panel of each of City department leaders.
 - **Where, Timing and Your Questions** – Both of these programs are held at the Carmel Woman's Club. Doors open at 6:30PM to mingle and grab a glass of wine, then our programs start at 7:00PM. The public is welcome. Let us know the questions you want asked at these programs by emailing info@carmelresidents.org.



Planning Way Ahead - September

September Important Dates are Confirmed – Mark Your Calendars

- **Saturday September 7th** CRA Members - **Feast in the Forest** in Pebble Beach Indian Village. Reservations will be accepted in July.
- **Tuesday September 17th** CRA Hosts the Residents **Candidates Forum** at Carmel Woman's Club with Candidates for Mayor and the two open City Council seats who will be on the November Ballot.

Expanded updates on these upcoming events (and their past year's details) can be found on the home page of the CRA website.

*Remembrance
of those Members we lost over
2022-2023*



Dave Banks, Roger Dahl, Nancy Green, Dick Laney, Skip Lloyd, Charlotte Townsend, Ingrid Werkele and Jean White.

May their memories and footprints in our Village not be forgotten.



POST OFFICE BOX 13
CARMEL-BY-THE-SEA, CA 93921
WWW.CARMELRESIDENTS.ORG | INFO@CARMELRESIDENTS.ORG

Place
Stamp
Here

CRA Membership

Please join or renew your annual membership at \$40 Individual, \$65 Couple, \$120 Benefactor, or \$1000 Lifetime by visiting our website. Enjoy CRA benefits for members only. And your donations keep our 37 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**

DIRECTORS

Janice Bradner, Mike Brown, Janine Chicourrat,
Mary Condry, Sara Harnish, JC Myers, David O'Neil,
Sherry Shollenbarger, 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

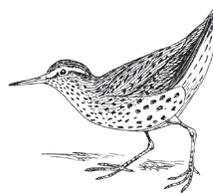
CHEERS Carmel Holiday lights more "beautifuler" than ever. Devendorf Park dolled up to look like a Broadway Theater marquee. Just a memory--until next year.



CHEERS "it was a dark and stormy night." Yes, someone did begin a classic mystery with that sentence. It was in 1973 in Madeleine L'Engle's *A Wrinkle in Time*. A cliché today, even a joke. Try the new mystery and crime stacks at your library. Some great reading; not a lot of jokes.

CHIDES Speaking of "stormy"...the upcoming El Nino Or Atmospheric Rivers? May the weather be kind to our Forest in the Village by the Sea in the coming months with its rains and winds arriving only in small batches. Please care for and protect our urbanized forest – but should public trees or branches cause issues – reach out to our Public Works Department at (831) 620-2070 or publicworks@ci.carmel.ca.

CHEERS The Carmel High School newspaper, *The Carmel Sandpiper*, www.thesandpiper.org, is an outstanding free publication, available at newsstands or subscribe online. Learn about their concerns, successes, and activities of this next generation of Carmelites. Kudos!



CHIDES The Village preferences on implementing Standard Addresses continues to be controversial. Having been suggested many times, why doesn't the City require or enable consistent physical location signage for each residence? This could be an

immediate step to "addressing" *some* of the "finding me" challenges – while the longer-term issues and approach is considered.



CHEERS OR CHIDES? Ready or not – the AT&T Pro-Am is returning to Pebble Beach Wednesday January 31st to Sunday February 4th. May we have pleasant weather and may these visiting golfers and golf enthusiasts be courteous and respectful while they enjoy all that our amazing Village offers – leaving only their dollars behind.

CHEERS Thank you to those who are just now joining CRA and/or renewing your annual CRA membership in these early months of 2024. These dollars help us do what we do for you and our community. A return membership envelope is enclosed in this issue.

Thank You - CRA Members!