

2021 CRA CITIZEN OF THE YEAR – PRESS FACT SHEET

Event Details

Carmel Residents Association (CRA) – Citizen of the Year Celebration – 26th Ceremony

Web Page: www.carmelresidents.org/cras-citizen-of-the-year

Please visit this CRA web page for history of this event and our prior honorees.

Date/Time: Sunday October 10th – 2 PM Program, 3-4 PM Mix, Mingle, Munch & Toast

Location: Carmel Woman’s Club, SW Corner of 9th and San Carlos, Carmel-by-the-Sea, Ca 93921

This event is open to the public, as space allows (Capacity =< 125)

Note: Many dignitaries joining us may also be participating in or attending the Carmel Mission 250th celebrations late that same afternoon: our CRA Citizen of the Year timing and proximity easily supports joint attendance.

Honoree – Dale Byrne

Important Timing Item – CONFIDENTIAL until October 1st.

Dale, and his wife Margaret, know of this coming honor, but have been requested not to mention this to others. On October 1st, CRA will announce our honoree via standard media, email, and online.

Dale’s History associated with this honor – a partial background

1. Dale and his wife Margaret, after vacationing here routinely, and retiring from the sale of his technology firm, moved to our Village over 7 years ago and began engaging with civic teams as they invested in **rebuilding 4 homes in town**. His passion for improving and enhancing everything about living in Carmel-by-the-Sea kicked in during these initial years.
2. He began volunteering weekly with the **Visitors Center** led by the Carmel Chamber of Commerce.
3. Dale also partnered with Lynn Momboisse to expand the Carmel-by-the-Sea **Voice Map Tours**, with surrounding nature and town offerings – associated with *Adventures of a Home Town Tourist*. They cover much of our town, historical events, interesting characters, architecture, businesses; all emphasizing the importance of protecting our Village heritage.
4. He also joined **Carmel Residents Association** and became a board member for a year, where he applied his passions and past-life technical expertise by driving the rollout of new automation for membership and website etc. Plus, he crafted a program for businesses to extend CRA members special offers – engaging residents with our businesses. Dale & Margaret remain motivated lifetime CRA members.
5. Then comes **COVID19** in the winter 2020. As we all shut down per directives, in comes Dales’ ideas for making a difference stream in. At this time, Dale partnered with Tim Allen, local realtor, to collaborate and charitably fund making a difference in these unique pandemic times – in comes www.carmelgives.org. Just some of these resulting efforts included working with local seamstresses to make and then distribute free masks. He also engaged many Village restaurants to make meals and see they are delivered to those in need, plus they funded meal coupons from these restaurants to be redeemed by recipients at their leisure. This last effort kept many restaurants with their lights on, who struggled with the take-out only business.
6. Now comes the **formation of Carmel Cares** – www.carmelcares.org As you visit this website you will see, *“Carmel Cares is a 501(c)3 nonprofit volunteer organization dedicated to keeping Carmel-by-the-Sea a beautiful, safe, and inviting place through volunteer maintenance and improvement projects, branded community engagement programs, educational outreach, and other creative activities. We partner closely with the City of Carmel’s Public Works Department and other nonprofit organizations to make a difference in our community.”*

Only to highlight a few items you will find on this website; we’ll call out the following

- a. Major collaborative improvement projects: Scenic Pathway, Forest Theater and Devendorf Park...and this list continues
- b. Innovative Individual Volunteer Programs: Tree Tender, Median Minders & Pickup (litter) Posse
- c. Donation of significant Capital Equipment and over 2000 hours of people-power to our stretched and great Carmel Public Works team
- d. In the early days of becoming an affiliate of Keep America Beautiful, with Keep Carmel Beautiful

CRA honors Dale Byrne, as our inspiring volunteer activist, energizer bunny, never takes no for an answer, 100% committed to do what it takes to make sure there is a team aligned to assure Carmel-by-the-Sea remains an amazing place to visit, live, work, and play for years to come. We look forward to and appreciate your participation on Sunday, October 10th.

Reply to CRA’s Nancy Twomey at twomeyconnection@gmail.com or call 650-740-3477 with your questions.