

# SANDPIPER

## VACCINES: GO GET 'EM

Don Mosier, MD, PhD

Governor Newsom announced on January 12th that anyone over 65 could get the COVID-19 vaccine. That is good news. Both Scripps Health and UCSD have begun to immunize older clients although appointments are filling up fast. Unfortunately, immunization of health care workers and nursing home residents is well behind schedule and vaccine supplies are running short, so the timing of exactly when all Del Mar seniors can get both vaccine doses remains uncertain.

Let's imagine that you are lucky, whatever age you are, and get your two doses of vaccine before the end of February and you are among the 95% projected to develop protective immunity. Can you resume normal life with friends and hug your grandkids? The short answer is no. First, you need to wait at least 3 weeks after the second dose for the peak immune response to develop. We still need to understand more about how robust this immune response is at that point. The trials that allowed the Pfizer and Moderna vaccines to be distributed proved that two doses of vaccine prevented 95% of symptomatic COVID-19 disease, which is very impressive and an important reason to get the vaccine. It remains to be determined if the vaccines prevented infection with the virus or cleared the virus infection before it could cause disease. Because up to 50% of COVID-19 infections are asymptomatic, it is possible that a vaccinated individual could become infected and potentially transmit the virus before a robust immune response limited the infection. Most vaccines work by priming the immune system to rapidly respond to a virus infection, but a very robust immunity that prevents any virus replication is uncommon. Also, you could be unlucky and be in the 5% with poor vaccine responses.

That means that you need to continue to wear a mask and practice social distancing even if you have received the COVID vaccine. Save those grandkid hugs for later, when everyone has been vaccinated and virus infections are very rare.

Three new variants of the COVID-19 virus have emerged in recent weeks. One arose in the United Kingdom and has been



*In-car vaccination at Petco Park. Photo Liz Sloan.*

detected in San Diego County. The second arose in Brazil and appears responsible for a second wave of infections in Manaus. A third is prevalent in Northern California. Each appears more infectious than the predominant strain in the US, and the genetic sequences indicate changes in the viral spike protein that is critical for virus entry into human cells. Although the current vaccines seem to be effective against the new variants, the results from Brazil are worrying because some people infected in the first wave last summer remain susceptible to infection by the new variant. We don't know whether immunity from the first infection was short-lived or the new variant was poorly recognized by the immune system, or both. With millions of people infected worldwide and the coronavirus mutating faster than expected, we will have to keep a vigilant watch for mutations that both increase transmission and escape the protection conferred by the current vaccines. But stay tuned, because a second round of vaccines against emerging COVID-19 variants may be needed in the coming years.

In the meantime, it is urgent that as many people as possible get the COVID-19 vaccines as soon as possible. The more people that are infected, the more likely a dangerous mutation is to emerge. Let's slow this pandemic before that happens. ■

**Asymptomatic** – you have the virus but you don't know it because you don't feel sick. Up to 50% of people with COVID-19 fall into this category.

**Why wear masks after vaccination** – you may shed virus a few days after you are vaccinated even if you feel fine, so wear a mask to protect your family and friends.

# AGENDA '21

## Let's Talk

**Y**ear 2021 promises to be a very active year in Del Mar and well beyond. Many of our challenges, not unique to our small corner of earth, are often intertwined with much larger issues and jurisdictions.

The Sandpiper wants to stimulate conversations within our community about these issues with an emphasis on larger frameworks, including history and actions that affect us directly and indirectly. We believe there are many core values that are embraced by most of us but sometimes get lost too easily in the noise of campaigns and the formalities of governmental processes. Del Mar has always attracted very educated and accomplished citizens who choose to move here because of its unique small-town character. Finding ways to draw on that talent has been and continues to be central to our progressive development. We want these pages to be a forum for a variety of ideas and solutions to be discussed with civility from the impact of the pandemic, the stability of our bluffs, housing mandates

and short-term rental impacts, climate action, the nuclear waste threat, the future of the fairgrounds to name just a few of the many daunting items that our community will be grappling with this year into the future.

Our plan is to address one issue per issue in a frame that attempts to set a base line, beginning with an outline of an issue with some history and facts, but no solution offered. We will then solicit a variety of ideas and opinions on that issue in subsequent publications and online. The city's civil discourse rules will be our guide. We look forward to a spirited infusion of ideas and potential solutions. ■



non-profit. Its purpose is to advocate the Del Mar Community Plan, to foster informed public and government decision-making regarding issues affecting the community of the City of Del Mar, and to encourage a social and political climate favorable to the protection of the community character of the City of Del Mar and its environs.

**Editorial Board:** Jeff Barnouw, Valérie Dufort-Roy, Bud Emerson, Virginia Lawrence, Julie Maxey-Allison, Don Mosier, Betty Wheeler.  
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*A Del Mar Mailbox.  
Photo Julie Maxey-Allison, more on page 6.*

### LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Material submitted must include the writer's name, street address, and phone number, and should not exceed 400 words.

Contact us via e-mail or post at:

The Sandpiper, Box 2177, Del Mar, CA 92014  
or at [editor@delmarsandpiper.org](mailto:editor@delmarsandpiper.org)

## REFERENDUM ROLLS DICE

### Del Mar Housing Element Gamble

Jill Gartman | Pine Needles Drive

*North Commercial rezone suspended until 2022 election, opening a game of chicken with the State over affordable housing in Del Mar.*

Last October, City Council voted to rezone North Commercial — the area near the roundabout at Jimmy Durante and San Dieguito Road. The 3-2 majority and city staff argued this was necessary for Del Mar to stay compliant with state affordable housing law, to avoid fines and lawsuits. The long-delayed rezone was voted on 7 years after extensive public discussion and certification by the state. The controversial rezone resulted in an immediate citizen petition to overturn the vote. Spearheaded by local resident Arnie Wiesel, it obtained enough signatures to suspend the rezone — forcing the current City Council to choose between reversing it outright or putting it up for a future voter referendum.

On January 11, City Council committed to letting the voters decide the fate of North Commercial's zoning with two of the five council members (Quirk, Martinez) recused because they live within 500 feet of North Commercial. Gaasterland, Worden, and Druker agreed that short of a resolution with the proponents of the referendum that results in its withdrawal, the citizens of Del Mar should have the final say in the matter by putting it on the ballot. The three council members diverged only on when the referendum should happen.

Only Worden favored putting the issue to Del Mar voters this June, saying he hopes to avoid stiff penalties and a lawsuit with the state over our housing element which requires Del Mar to rezone North Commercial. Worden said the cost of a special June election is “trivial compared to the cost of going out of compliance and being decertified.” Worden noted: “[I] have a real problem with putting it on in November 2022. That in effect repeals the ordinance because it is stayed for almost two years. We'd be better off as a city to repeal it tonight and then the one year ban would be over a year from now, and we would be able to revisit zoning options. By putting it on the ballot in November 2022, we can't consider options for almost two years. If we put it on the ballot, we should put it on the ballot in June.”



## MAYORAL PRIORITIES

*Mayor Terry Gaasterland delivered her “State of the City” speech at the first council meeting of 2021. The full version is available online, and we present her concluding remarks below.*

### Mayor Gaasterland's MUST-DOs

I want to mention two over-arching must-do priorities:

1. Our most important asset is our beach. We must get our Sea Level Rise Adaptation Plan approved by the Coastal Commission. We need our sand replenishment permits to take advantage of opportunities to nourish the beaches.
2. A big question will be whether and how to resume Utility Undergrounding. Even with unknown future Measure Q revenue recovery, we must find a way to pursue a demonstration project, even if reduced in scope. Let's work with SDG&E on design schedules and subsidies. Let's figure out what size project can be done, even now, and let's get started.

This will be a year full of challenges. COVID is far from over.

As Mayor of Del Mar for the next year, I hope to be a catalyst for bringing our community together for the benefit of all Del Mar residents. We are facing an unknown future with diminished operating funds to accomplish all that will be needed. Working together we can go a long way toward reaching our goals. That is what I will be focused on. □

Gaasterland and Druker favored November 2022, giving the city time to negotiate with the proponents to reach a solution that would hopefully avoid any need for a vote. Gaasterland said: “[T]he referendum by going on the November 2022 ballot empowers the people and the people have certainty and the people of Del Mar will be able to vote on this important zone change in November 2022. The other power it has given the people is it has pushed our council to come up with an alternative that's acceptable to the de facto representatives of the people, the proponents of the referendum.” Neither Gaasterland nor Druker addressed that waiting until 2022 will push the City past the State-imposed April 2021 rezoning deadline by a year and a half, triggering potential penalties and lawsuits during that time.

Since the Council did not come to a consensus on when to place the issue on the ballot it will automatically be placed on the November 2022 ballot by default, absent further Council action. □

WEARING MASKS IS **STILL** ESSENTIAL!

FEBRUARY 2021

**DMFTalks**, a signature program of the Del Mar Foundation that aims to inspire and inform the Del Mar community, was launched in 2012 to take advantage of the exceptionally deep bench of locally-based creative, intellectual, and scientific leaders.

The January 12 DMFTalk featured two local experts discussing their COVID-19 related scientific work and fielding a wide range of questions about the virus and the recently-released vaccines. The presentation by Dr. Sumit Chanda and Dr. Evan Snyder of Sanford Burnham Prebys Medical Discovery Institute was fascinating and inspiring, if at times sobering.

If you missed this timely Talk, a video of their presentation is available on the Del Mar Foundation’s website.

During the pandemic, Zoom has provided a temporary home for DMFTalks, and you can view a variety of past programs on the DMF website. For example, a recent presentation on Keeping Our Oceans Healthy by Dr. Octavio Aburto of Scripps Institute of Oceanography features a wealth of marine conservation information along with Dr. Aburto’s stellar underwater photography.

And yes, the day will come when DMFTalks can return to its true “home” at the Del Mar Powerhouse. DMF volunteers will delight in pouring you a glass of wine at the reception that will precede what is sure to be an informative and inspiring Talk! To receive announcements of future DMFTalks, sign up for the Foundation’s email list at [www.delmarfoundation.org](http://www.delmarfoundation.org). ■



*The black area indicates where multi-dwelling units would be prohibited along the riverbank. Source: Community Plan Amendment graphic from City’s January 12th staff report to the Planning Commission.*

Responding to the concerns of residents who signed the referendum to repeal Ordinance 973, the Planning Commission on January 12 unanimously recommended that City Council approve a Community Plan Amendment that would reduce the potential maximum number of housing units in the North Commercial Zone by 43% and prohibit multiple dwelling units on the 6.78 acres adjacent to the lagoon and riverbank. “This change is intended to address the community concerns ... that have been expressed and heard,” staff said.

Ordinance 973 was passed by the previous Council on a 3-2 vote to meet Del Mar’s state-mandated “5th Cycle” housing requirement to amend the North Commercial zone providing the potential for affordable housing during 2013-2021, by April 15, 2021. This has realistically meant finding properties in North Commercial that if modified can accommodate more housing units than currently allowed. Ordinance 973 would allow multiple housing units as a use in the North Commercial Zone at the Jimmy Durante/San Dieguito Drive roundabout area where only one dwelling unit is currently allowed per lot if that unit would be accessory to a commercial use. Existing Floor Area ratios and height limitations in the Commercial Zone and review by the Design Review Board would stay in place. However specific concerns related to access during →



## HORSEPARK RUMOR CONTROL

### Temporary Closure

After widespread rumors that the Del Mar Horsepark owned by the 22nd District Agricultural Association (DAA) was to be sold, the situation was clarified by Board President Richard Valdez at the January 12th board meeting. Horsepark is being temporarily closed because the 22nd DAA cannot afford to pay for water quality improvements mandated by the Regional Water Quality Board that would cost \$6-8 million. The postponement of the 2020 County Fair and other large scale gatherings has resulted in a dramatic loss of income and forced the layoff of over two-thirds of the 22nd DAA staff. Some horse show events can take place at the fairgrounds proper, where over \$15 million worth of water quality improvements have just been completed. ■

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emergencies, sea level rise, and density were voiced by residents especially those who lived in the adjacent areas.

The North Commercial Community Plan Amendment recommended for City Council approval would significantly reduce potential units by clustering all potential for multiple dwelling units along Jimmy Durante Boulevard, not San Dieguito Drive, and away from the lagoon and riverbank, according to the staff report.

Resident and referendum leader Arnold Wiesel attended the meeting and objected to the proposed Community Plan Amendment required to satisfy 5th Cycle Programs 2E and 2G and objected to the new Overlay Zone (required rezone of the two vacant Watermark lots per Program 2G) based on an “inadequate and incomplete” Environmental Impact Report. When asked if he was willing to “reconsider your decision given the reduction of units and increase in environmental protection,” Wiesel said he could not answer for all the residents who signed the petition and was unwilling to respond even as an individual.

The Commission’s recommendation goes to City Council for a decision as we go to press. In the meantime the Council has appointed Mayor Gaasterland and Councilman Druker as a two person subcommittee to work with representatives of the referendum drive to reach a compromise. Otherwise the City faces decertification, a potential increase in the number of affordable units required, more by-right development that could include lots on the North Bluff above Dog Beach, significant financial penalties, and loss of local control, including Design Review, for failing to meet our Housing Element goals. ■

## FEBRUARY 2021

Ashley Simpkins, Program Director

### Holiday Cheer, Delivered

DMCC was honored to arrange Holiday Cheer Deliveries for Del Mar seniors. Though we canceled the drive-thru holiday party out of precaution, we didn’t want all the preparation of DMCC’s Social and Good Times Committee to go to waste. So, we called the Del Mar Garden Club, and they were happy to help! Volunteers from DMGC delivered stocking stuffers and a beautiful, fragrant arrangement of holiday greens (designed by Feather Acres Nursery) to 70 Del Mar seniors. We were fortunate to receive funding from the San Diego Seniors Community Foundation through their No Senior Alone initiative, intended to curb social isolation during the pandemic. We are proud to work alongside so many organizations interested in protecting (and bringing happiness to) seniors.

### Grocery Delivery Program – 2020 Summary

In early March, DMCC recognized that the seniors that normally use our transportation services for their grocery shopping might need us to figure out a temporary substitute for them. That initial fix for accommodating the most at-risk senior citizens quickly grew into a robust regular service for seniors of all ages and a variety of needs. From March through December, the DMCC Pandemic Response Grocery Delivery Service shopped for and delivered groceries more than 700 times to more than 100 senior households. Every day, DMCC’s star shopper Amanda visits a different store and shops from seniors’ own lists. Behind the scenes, DMCC staff and board members do a lot of administrative work to make it happen. This service is funded in partnership with the Del Mar Foundation, and they deserve special thanks for their ongoing support.

### Volunteer of the Month – January & February

DMCC’s Volunteer of the Month for January 2021 is Larry Brooks, program leader of the monthly “Remarkable Del Mar History,” because he regularly gives us something interesting to learn from our homes, makes it look easy, and does it with good humor. Thank you, Larry!

Our Volunteer of the Month for February 2021 is Denise O’Neil, Marriage and Family Therapist and member of the Health and Wellness committee, for her great ideas and contributions for the premiere speaker series. Thanks Denise!

DMCC programs and services depend on our incredible volunteers! To learn more about Larry or becoming a program leader, visit [dmcc.cc/volunteerofthemonth](http://dmcc.cc/volunteerofthemonth).

### For more information... or to join our email list:

Please visit our website at [dmcc.cc](http://dmcc.cc) or contact the DMCC office at (858) 792-7565 or [dmcc@dmcc.cc](mailto:dmcc@dmcc.cc). ■

# POSTAL CONNECTIONS

Julie Maxey-Allison | 10th Street

**L**ong long ago when our west was wide open with social distancing the norm, letters and newspapers delivered by ship or stagecoach to the Post Office kept the connection twixt family and friends.

The United States Postal Service's start-up was in 1775. Benjamin Franklin was Postmaster General. One hundred ten years later Theodore Loop was Postmaster of the newly-established city his wife named Del Mar. It was in the train depot then at 9th and Railroad Street, now Stratford Court. The alternative: the Pony Express existed briefly offering a faster but costlier service with jockey-like riders racing to deliver pouches on their route in record time. From 1885 to 1965 Del Mar had 20 Postmasters, the first serving the city moved from the train depot to the original Main Street, 10th Street. By 1926 it was located at 14th Street and Camino Del Mar then on to the southwest corner of 15th Street and Stratford Court in 1953, and finally to 122 15th Street in 1965.

Our local Post Office is one of 31,322 locations around the country that deliver to more than 157 million addresses in the United States, its territories, and its military bases worldwide, managing some 47 percent of the world's mail. Busy! You can mail and receive letters and packages there. You can open a PO Box. You can buy stamps in a variety of presentations depending on the time and season, cards, mailing enclosures, domestic and international money orders, burial flags. However, take note: you can't get a passport at this location should you be gearing up for post-pandemic travel. ■

*Photos Julie Maxey-Allison*



# SUSTAINABILITY: POD PROBLEMS

Valérie Dufort-Roy | Klish Way



A foggy Del Mar morning is never perfect without a cup of coffee. Some set their coffeemaker on a timer, while others head to their favorite coffee shop, or have a fancy machine pour them a cup with the finest Italian crema. As the technology surrounding caffeine addiction perfects itself, the National Coffee Association estimates that over 40% of U.S. households own a single-cup coffee brewing system using pods.

A coffee pod is a small plastic or aluminum container filled with coffee grounds. It is inserted into a machine where hot water percolates through and extracts the coveted liquid. Twenty-five seconds later, the pod is ready to be tossed. Aside from imposing on customers to purchase the same brand of capsules for the life of their machine, billions of them end up in landfills every year, where they generate methane and contribute to global warming. It is estimated that if all the cumulative pods tossed in landfills were lined up, they would circle the Earth 13 times.

Aside from the beans being grown in developing countries, plastics and aluminum need to be sourced, manufactured into pods necessary to enclose 6g of coffee in a 3g shell and transported before the pods are filled, assembled and packaged in a sleeve or a box for every 10, 24 or 72 capsules.

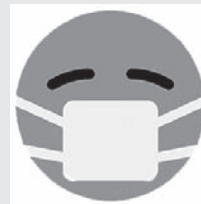
In an effort to brand their product as sustainable, aluminum pod makers invite customers to mail the full used pods back in prepaid bags for recycling and composting. As for the recycling of plastic shells, it is wishful thinking at best. They could be recyclable, if customers were willing to empty them using a coffee pods cutter to split the pod open, extract the used coffee grounds, discard the inner filter and recycle the empty pods. →

## IN BRIEF

### INDOOR DINING?

Cease and desist orders – Some restaurants in Del Mar have defied the state and county orders prohibiting indoor dining. The city staff has urged these restaurants to comply voluntarily and some have. Others, however, were referred to the county for enforcement and received cease-and-desist orders. The county has been referring restaurants and other businesses in violation of COVID-19 restrictions for prosecution and fines only after multiple cease-and-desist orders have been issued. No Del Mar establishments have reached this stage at this time. The County Board of Supervisors has pledged to up the level of enforcement, so any restaurant that continues to provide indoor dining is taking a calculated risk. If you want to support local restaurants, please order from the take out menus. □

IT'S **STILL** UP TO **ALL** OF US.



PROTECT YOURSELF.  
PROTECT OTHERS.  
KEEP YOUR DISTANCE.  
WEAR A MASK.

PLEASE DO **YOUR** PART FOR  
THE COMMUNITY.

However, many pods are made out of non-recyclable plastic, and some facilities cannot handle the small size of the containers and divert them to landfills. Is there such a thing as a recyclable plastic pod?

In response to the environmental threat that the pods and capsules are posing, a number of washable and reusable pods are now widely available, along with a few compostable options. Read the fine print, however, as some pods call themselves compostable, but only in industrial composting facilities, which are not available in our area!

In the meantime, I will end with this strong worded slogan from Greenpeace: "Kill the K-cup before it kills our planet." □

# OCTOPUS ALIENS

Julie Maxey-Allison | 10th Street

**W**hat has one soft body, two eyes, three hearts, eight arms (I could use some of those), nine brains, blue blood, is strong, curious, creative, able to change bodily color and texture, solve problems and slip in and out of small spaces?

Our neighbor, the multi-talented California two-spot octopus, *Octopus bimaculoides*, nestled in the waters off La Jolla Shores beach and/or the low tide pools there and at Swami's beach, Encinitas and Point Loma. Our local octopuses (octo is for eight, the rest for footed) run some 7-23 inches in size and live an average of two years, dying after breeding and laying the next generation's eggs. The species, at home in all the world's waters, measures anywhere from one inch to more than 16 feet.

These nocturnal animals are shy and sly. Their hangouts are caves and crevices. When hunting or threatened out in the open ocean they know how to hide in plain sight. Octopuses can self camouflage to blend into the background through crypsis, the aforementioned ability to quickly switch their tint and texture to mimic a rock, a sea plant, a sand mound and such. Octopus architects have been recorded building shelters from gathered shells, tearing them down and saving the shells for use another time. To further thwart a pesky predator they can squirt ink—obscuring vision— and retreat, jetting off backwards. They see well and have all those arms, though two are said to act as legs (yes, they can “walk”). Each arm has its own brain and uses its suckers—suction cups—to touch and taste and can decide what action to take depending on what it senses—independently from the other seven. Oh, and an octopus can also regrow an arm if one should be lost for whatever reason.

No one has spoken with one, but many researchers have studied their brain power, curiosity, dexterity, strength and found them to be very smart, witty, cunning, solving puzzles, navigating mazes, using tools and famously escaping through small openings—not part of the experiment. The octopus, that can be out of water safely for a very few minutes, just disappears down a drain, out the door into nearby water. Also, at one research facility with an octopus in residence the fish in a tank in the same room kept vanishing. The staff was questioned. All denied involvement. A camera was set up to solve the missing fish mystery. The culprit: the octopus. Living in close proximity, it had spotted the nearby tank filled with fish. It developed a habit of opening its own enclosure seal, making its way to the tank, reaching in and taking a fish, returning back to its space, →



Art: “The Carpenter” by Igor Zusev.  
Photo by Elizabeth Zusev.

closing the seal and enjoying a snack.

*FYI: The species has been dubbed the closest thing we have to an alien on earth. ■*

# RR RESOLUTION

Dwight Worden | Seaview Avenue



**T**here's lots happening on the Del Mar Bluffs regarding rails, tunnels, and fences. Here are key notes on what you need to know.

**Rails.** The North County Transit District (NCTD) owns the Railroad Right of Way (ROW). Amtrak and BNSF operate passenger and freight and NCTD operates the Coaster for a current total of 60+ trains per day, increasing to 100 per day by 2030. This is the 2nd busiest passenger rail corridor in the country. In addition to about 5 million passengers a year it provides freight service to the Port of San Diego (an \$8 billion per year enterprise), and is part of the Department of Defense STRACNET (Strategic Rail Corridor network).

**Safety.** About a dozen people per year are killed by trains between Oceanside and San Diego. Some are suicides, some are not. NCTD rates the Del Mar Bluffs in the high risk category and wants to fence it to control trespassing.

**Bluff Stabilization.** The rail is at risk from bluff retreat and sea level rise. SANDAG is responsible for stabilizing the Del Mar bluffs. A six-phased stabilization is underway, with phases 1-4 completed. These four phases added steel soldier piles and addressed drainage issues along vulnerable sections of the ROW. Phases 5 and 6 (costing \$100 million+) will do more of the same and will add new seawalls on the beach. Experts say these six phases will stabilize the bluffs until 2050.

**Relocating the Rails Inland.** Long-term plans call for relocating the rails to an inland tunnel by 2050. Five tunnel options have been identified. Costs range from \$2.5 to 3.2 billion in 2017 dollars. Funding sources have yet to be identified.

**Fencing.** NCTD contends it has the right to fence the ROW without Del Mar, Coastal Commission, SANDAG, or CEQA (California Environmental Quality Act) approval. →

NCTD has filed a petition asking the Federal Surface Transportation Board (STB) to confirm its exemption. The City and the Coastal Commission are contesting NCTD's position. The parties have agreed to a 120 day stay to accommodate settlement discussions. Meanwhile, NCTD's fencing installation is on hold pending the settlement discussions.

**What it all means.** There are important competing interests at issue on the Del Mar Bluffs. Safety is an important and legitimate concern with too many strikes and near misses (trains hitting cars or pedestrians). Public access to the beach is an important and legitimate concern. Protecting views and property values is also an important and legitimate concern.

The situation cries out for cooperation and collaboration. So far, NCTD has used a heavy hand to assert a fence is the only answer giving little concern to the other competing interests. There are ways to increase safety while still providing access and without unnecessarily blocking views and harming property values. Let's hope NCTD can see that in the settlement talks getting underway.

For example, 13 of 14 strikes in recent years in Del Mar were clustered in close proximity to the Coast Blvd. crossing. A limited barrier (fence, post and rail, vegetation, etc.) strategically placed to control access could be placed at that location. Other parts of the ROW are bounded by steep natural cliffs and don't need fences. Signage along the ROW and at street ends can be improved. Some fencing closer to the tracks and out of the view can be considered. A pedestrian crossing could be included at a strategic location, perhaps 11th street.

If all parties approach the situation with an open mind they can fashion a better solution. That's the Del Mar goal. □



*Dolphins gamboling in the high surf off the La Jolla Shores beach on January 3. Photo Jonathan Feeney-Mosier.*

# FRENCH MARQUETRY

Julie Maxey-Allison | 10th Street



New in town: Amber Waves of Grain Gallery. Artist Mac Hillenbrand, trained in the highly evolved technique of wood inlay, French Marquetry, produces intricate pictorial work. Hillenbrand who grew up locally has been surfing and making art since his teen age years. He left for college and ran an art space in Oakland while working as a commercial painter and dry wall installer. He returned to the area to attend the American School of French Marquetry in San Diego, then settling back in Del Mar opened his gallery. His work is available at various galleries and on line at [MAC@AMBERWAVESOFGRAIN.COM](mailto:MAC@AMBERWAVESOFGRAIN.COM). Come view his work in person at 1414 Camino Del Mar, 9:00 AM-5:00 PM Monday-Friday or by appointment: 858-625-1883. ■



Mac Hillenbrand at work in his gallery.  
Photo Julie Maxey-Allison.



Cartoon John Dempsey

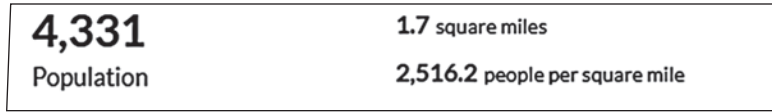


Kini Koffee overlooking the ocean, a quick stop at the Plaza.  
Photo Julie Maxey-Allison.

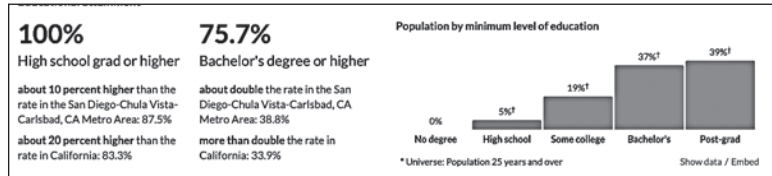
# FACTOIDS MATTER

<https://censusreporter.org/profiles/16000US0618506-del-mar-ca/>

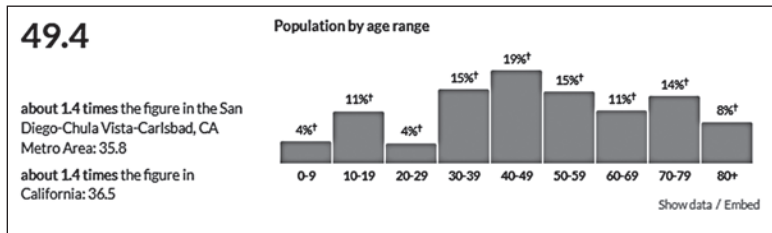
## DEL MAR, CA



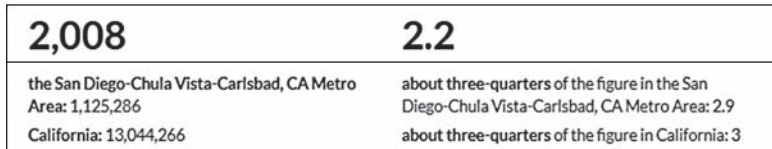
### Education: high school or higher/BA or higher



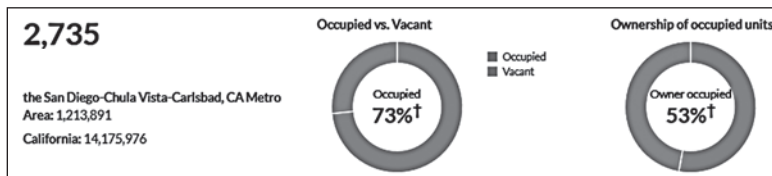
### Median age



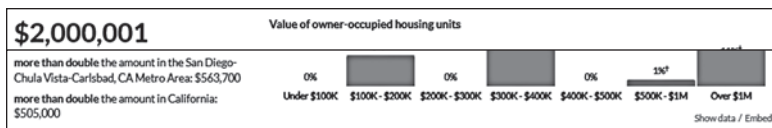
### Number of households vs persons per household



### Number of housing units: Vacant vs owner-occupied



### Median value of owner-occupied housing units



# CLIFF COLLAPSE CAUTION

Julie Maxey-Allison | 10th Street

A cautionary tale about our coast concerns cliff collapses. These picturesque, charming but non-static structures erode and crumble at rates depending on, among other issues, substructure and weather. Happily no one here has been injured from the many small cliff collapses on our south beach or, further south, from the early January cliff slide at Torrey Pines beach. But, three family members died in Encinitas August, 2019, when a chunk of dense sand/earth buried them.

These natural erosions are not only on the beaches. A diaper still drapes the cliff at Camino Del Mar/Jimmy Durante from the April, 2019 cliff failure that clogged northbound lane for days till it was dug out. A more recent landfall tossed some six feet of the backyard bluff of an Amphitheatre house down to the property's edge on 11th Street. Take note. Take care. □



At the intersection of Camino del Mar and Jimmy Durante Boulevard. Photos Julie Maxey-Allison.



Del Mar, 11th Street.

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## PANDEMIC PROS

G. Stuart Mendenhall, Cardiologist Scripps Hospital

**S**an Diego and north county hospitals still have extremely high COVID19 patient numbers, and Scripps Memorial - La Jolla hospital alone in mid-January 2021 has continuously had a census of over 40 patients on a ventilator and over 100 inpatients battling COVID19 pneumonia.

In providing care for patients who test positive, we have used negative pressure or effectively sealed rooms to prevent hospital spread of the virus. When entering a room with COVID positive patient, health care workers use disposable gowns, N95 respirators, and a full-face shield to minimize any risk of transmission. When we leave the hospital and come home, we are extremely careful to mask up to prevent transmission back to the community, with even further self-imposed restriction and isolation if any known exposure at work or symptoms. Many nurses have been pulled from their regular duties to help with COVID patients on hospital floors, and we have used eligible MDs to cover routine hospital patients to allow a specialized team of doctors to exclusively treat individuals with COVID19.

At this point all medical staff who desire the COVID19 vaccine have received the doses, and we are following closely to confirm that this gives effective immunity "in the field." As with any new technology we are monitoring closely during the deployment all responses to the vaccine, and the major hospital systems will be reaching out to qualifying patients shortly to offer the vaccine in addition to county-wide administration sites.



*Photo courtesy of the author.*

There is a significant and increasing amount of evidence that mask-wearing prevents the droplet mediated transmission of disease, and may also reduce inoculum size in the event of exposure, and it is most reasonable to continue to take precautions. Pandemic illness and death is **higher than it ever has been, and despite great hope on the horizon, it is best to avoid illness in the interim.** Avoiding crowds and mask use prevents transmission until immunity becomes widespread – these steps may be life saving.

*G. Stuart Mendenhall, MD is a cardiologist at Scripps Memorial Hospital – La Jolla. ■*