



Sandpiper

DEL MAR'S COMMUNITY JOURNAL

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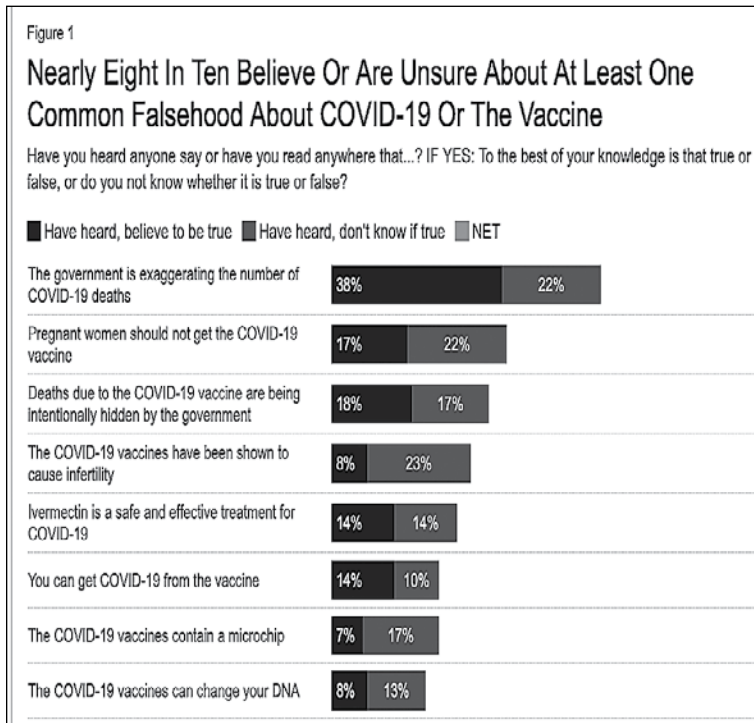
COVID Update

DEADLY NUMBERS

by Don Mosier | Rimini Road

If there is any doubt that facts matter (see current Editorial), consider what misinformation about COVID-19 and vaccines has wrought. Figure 1 below is from the Kaiser Family Foundation (KFF) report of November 8th, 2021.

With the number of deaths from COVID-19 approaching 850,000 in the U.S. and deaths over the last year concentrated in the unvaccinated population, it is estimated by the KFF that vaccine misinformation has contributed to at least 165,000 deaths since June of 2021.



Link to KFF article: <https://bit.ly/KFF-poll>

NET in Fig. 1 is the sum of “believe to be true” and “uncertain about truth.”

Eight in Ten is the cumulative percentage of people who believe or are uncertain about at least one of the falsehoods.

The KFF article concludes: “We find...that belief in pandemic-related misinformation is widespread, with 78% of adults saying they have heard at least one of eight different false statements about COVID-19 and that they believe it to be true or are unsure if it is true or false. One-third (32%)



Commentary

MANDATES CONSPIRACY? NOT!

by Maneck S. Wadia | Luneta Drive

This opinion is mainly addressed to those who oppose any kind of vaccine mandate. Already, in the United States, vaccine mandates exist for polio, chicken pox, diphtheria, measles, rubella, tetanus and mumps. The first mandate was passed in Massachusetts for smallpox in 1827. We also have other types of mandates, such as seatbelt requirements, speed limits, mandates enforced by laws.

Mandates are not conspiracies. As a matter of fact, without mandates we would still be suffering the agonies from polio. It is believed that if polio still existed in the USA, it would cost over \$30 billion a year to take care of its victims. Only three countries oppose polio vaccination. Those three countries are Pakistan, Afghanistan, and Nigeria. They do not allow polio vaccination, based on the conspiracy theory mainly of right-wing terrorists like Boko Haram, Taliban, and Isis. They oppose any kind of polio vaccination, considering it a plot to make Muslims infertile. They pose the threat of spreading it further.

For those who think that the mandate is something new, please bear in mind that mandates are as old as mankind. Human civilization would not survive without mandates.

We should view this vaccine, not as part of our religious or political philosophy, but as a war between the virus and the human body. The virus spits into the air like bullets. The vaccine is like a bulletproof vest. The bullets will not penetrate your body if you have been fully vaccinated. If you are not fully vaccinated, and even if you are, some bullets will enter. However, 95% of all the new admissions for COVID in hospitals and 99% of the deaths are patients who have not been vaccinated.

Please get vaccinated, mandated or not. Fighting Covid requires interdependence, not independence. □

of all adults believe or are uncertain about at least four false statements. Belief in COVID-19 misinformation is correlated with both vaccination status and partisanship, with unvaccinated adults and Republicans much more likely to believe or be unsure about false statements compared to vaccinated adults and Democrats.” □

FACTS MATTER

Daniel Patrick Moynihan famously said, “Everyone is entitled to his own opinion, but not to his own facts.” This statement, made in the 1980s when Moynihan was the U.S. Senator from New York, is as relevant today as it was then. With the advent of the internet and social media platforms, opinions are many and facts are few (in our opinion). What does this have to do with Del Mar and the role of the Sandpiper during this election year?

We pledge to do a thorough and impartial job of fact checking statements from candidates for local and regional offices. Opinions will be labelled as opinions and facts as facts. Why is this important in Del Mar at this juncture in our history?

We discern a disturbing trend of some current councilmembers distorting the facts to bolster their self-defined record of accomplishments, or to support a questionable policy position (for example, see this link to a recent fact check: bit.ly/QuirkFactCheck). Our council is supposed to be comprised of non-partisan citizen volunteers (\$300/month still qualifies as a volunteer), not political operatives. Facts matter, and they guide wise policy decisions. A recent example was the January

10th discussion of train operations. The stated goal of the resolution drafted by Councilmembers Quirk and Martinez was to endorse a study of all train operations that pass through Del Mar, with an implicit goal to eliminate the trains and convert the blufftop tracks to a trail. Numerous factual errors in their draft resolution were pointed out by North County Transit District CEO Matt Tucker as well as by fellow councilmembers Druker and Worden. Facts matter when debating an important issue, and misstatements or distortions undercut the credibility of Del Mar when dealing with regional governing bodies.

We hope that candidates for office in Del Mar can avoid the hyper-partisan rhetoric that has spread nationally. Let us have a fact-based, civil debate about issues important to our community character, and label differences in opinion as just that. □

LATEST LINES

by Don Mosier | Rimini Road

The California Citizens Redistricting Commission (CRC) finished its work at the end of December 2021 with changes that will impact California State Senate and Assembly representation for Del Mar voters. The biggest news, however, is Del Mar’s 49th U.S. Congressional District had some notable modifications (losing UCSD, Del Mar Heights, Rancho Santa Fe, and Fairbanks Ranch; gaining the city of Laguna Niguel) and that Mike Levin (D) will continue to represent Del Mar. This was a last-minute, welcome change to the tentative map that would have placed Del Mar in a long coastal district extending south to the border.

Del Mar is in the new State Senate District 38 that extends from Mission Viejo south to Pacific Beach, and it replaces most of the former District 36 currently represented by Patricia Bates (R). Encinitas Mayor Catherine Blakespear is running in the new District 38 against at least one Republican opponent (Bates is termed out). Del Mar voters will get to vote in the primary this June for the best candidate, but we will not lose representation from Senate President Pro Tem Toni Atkins (39th District) until her term expires in 2024. Toni Atkins has been a major voice for Del Mar and the region, and I’m sure her influence will continue when we have two State Senators (one from the 38th and one from the 39th) from November 2022 until November 2024.

The State Assembly District map puts Del Mar in the new District 77 that extends from Carlsbad to Chula Vista. Assembly Member Brian Maienschein currently represents District 77, and we lose our current Assembly Member Chris Ward to the newly drawn 78th District. Maienschein changed his party affiliation from Republican to Democratic in 2019, and he has announced his run for re-election in 2022. □

Maps on website.



Sandpiper

DEL MAR'S COMMUNITY JOURNAL

The Sandpiper is published by the Del Mar Community Alliance, a 501(C)(4) 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.

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FOOD TO POWER

by Valérie Dufort-Roy | Klish Way

Landfills are the third largest source of methane in California, a greenhouse gas responsible for climate change. Organic matter makes up almost half of what Californians dump into landfills. The resultant emission problem is going to reduce with the new Food and Yard Waste bill (California's SB 1383, effective January 2022) that requires curbside food waste recycling. Coincidentally, Del Mar is renegotiating its solid food waste contract for the next decade.

The current 10-year contract with Waste Management (valued at about \$13M) is ending this coming June. A thorough process has been in place to find the provider offering the highest quality service at the lowest reasonable cost. At the time of writing this article, city staff were wrapping up their evaluations of the proposals, and getting ready to present their recommendations to the City council, which is tentatively scheduled to award the new contract at its February 7 meeting.

Three San Diego local providers are likely to have submitted proposals: EDCO (who has an anaerobic digestion facility, located in Escondido), Republic Services (which uses off-the-grid solar powered Otay Compost Facility, located in Chula Vista), and Waste Management (whose CORE process facility converts food waste into green energy, located in Los Angeles). The details of the Request for Proposals and evaluation criteria can be found in the Complete Packet for the Regular September 7th, 2021 City Council meeting.

Humans are creatures of habit, and changing our ways takes time. In fact, recycling is still a challenge for some, despite the simplified message from Waste Management (with images to illustrate what goes in and what doesn't). How smoothly can curbside organics recycling be weaved in, when recycling continues to be less than adequate? Clem Brown, Del Mar's Environmental Sustainability & Special Projects Manager, explains that the city has integrated in its Request for Proposals that providers supply a kitchen food waste receptacle (like a pail) for residents to collect food scraps all week. They will then simply pop the pail's content in the green bin the night before collection. An even easier way to approach curbside organics recycling is to freeze food scraps and add the frozen bloc to the bin! These great tips will make the transition a breeze, once the new waste contract is in place this summer.

What will go in? Vegetable or fruit peels, meat or fish bones, leftovers gone bad, coffee grounds, egg shells, food-soiled paper that is unsuitable for the blue bin. Sounds doable, right!

This State regulation is poised to be a significant contributor towards reducing emissions. With all the can-do energy we can find in our town, let's get ready to be part of the solution! ■

KAMLA KAPUR

"I think in this multi-partisan world what we need most is a vision of the truth of every tradition, of that democracy that excludes none, regardless of religion or lack thereof, caste, class, color, gender or lack thereof."

- from India Journal



Photo by Payson R. Stevens.

Del Mar resident Kamla Kapur is an author, poet and playwright. For information about her books:

<https://amzn.to/33zrVRT> ■

In Brief

Beach Calm

The 2021 holiday season was calm at the beach. Rain dampened the days bringing few ocean visitors until the 1st of the year when the cancellation of the Penguin Plunge didn't detour the 700 people who kept up the tradition of plunging into winter's water. As the weather cleared over the weekend, another 10,000 or so beach walkers turned up. Then on the morning of January 15, the lifeguards were in place, keeping visitors safely away from the shore following a tsunami warning that was issued for the California coastline triggered by an underwater volcanic eruption across the sea near Tonga more than 5000 miles away. The undersea eruption did cause some irregular, energetic, racy, and foamy wave action locally but no damage. ■



COVID DECISION TREE

by Jasmine Criqui | Torrey Pines High School Senior

DMF HITS THE BIG 4-0!

by Betty Wheeler, President

The Foundation will be celebrating its 40th anniversary throughout 2022 – and we invite you to join in!

We're especially looking for volunteers to help (or better yet, take the lead) on our signature children's events, including the Easter egg hunt, Spooktacular Beach Bonfire, and our family-friendly 4th of July Parade. Interested? Send us a note at dmf@delmarfoundation.org



If you have enthusiasm, ideas, or specialized skills to contribute, let us know! We are a volunteer-driven organization – if you look back at everything we have done throughout our 40 years, it all happened because of Del Mar's deep bench of talented and committed volunteers.

How will we celebrate our big 4-0? Along with the diverse array of events we'll be scheduling throughout the year, we'll also put a spotlight on highlights from our first 40 years, and we'll be working collaboratively with the community to think about what our future should look like. If you're not already on our email list, sign up to keep in touch: <https://bit.ly/DMF-signup>. □



The San Dieguito Union High School District's constantly evolving COVID-19 policy has been communicated to parents and students through a series of email updates. To explain the latest revisions, the district sent out a link to "Decision Tree Guidelines," comprehensive flow charts detailing isolation and testing protocol. For example, one guideline advises that all students who share an indoor airspace for 15 minutes or more with an individual who was contagious with COVID-19 must test negative on Day 3, 4, or 5 since the exposure in order to remain in school, regardless of vaccination status or prior infection.

Keeping in mind that from Jan. 10 to Jan. 17, the number of SDUHSD students restricted from campus for quarantine or isolation jumped from 250 to more than 850, it's easy to see how exposures could be a daily occurrence that would thus mandate daily testing.

The success of this plan, however, is dependent on the false assumption that tests are desired by, and easily accessible to, all students.

"I think [at-home testing] is incredibly under-regulated because it's all self-reporting," said Hannah, a student who described the distribution of at-home tests as "incredibly inefficient and inaccessible." Another student who waited in line at a district-organized drive-through test distribution event estimated that it took about an hour to receive two tests.

Frustrated by the messages inundating their inboxes, some students have stopped reading emails from the district altogether. Others never started.

"I don't know what they are," said TPHS senior Pierce when asked about the school's COVID guidelines. After learning them, he said that he agreed with keeping masks on indoors, but thought the testing policy was overkill.

A number of students worry that the school isn't doing enough.

"I think certain events should either be canceled or treated with a little more caution," Toby, a TPHS senior, said. "I'm just feeling as though we're putting things like assignments and tests before health and safety, which is really scary to me."

One event that's generated mixed reactions is the upcoming Winter Formal. For many seniors, it's an opportunity to make up for all the school dances missed during their time in quarantine before they set off for college. However, tickets for the dance (which must be purchased in advance) are not refundable for any reason, including the cancellation of the event due to a spike in positive cases.

"I want to participate in these events because I won't →

COASTAL LEADERSHIP

by Catherine Blakespear, Mayor of Encinitas

As someone who grew up in Del Mar and Encinitas, I know how much of a blessing it is to live here in beautiful North County. My family has been here for 5 generations, and like so many who live here, I couldn't imagine life anywhere else. I feel incredibly fortunate to be raising my family here.

I first ran for the Encinitas City Council nearly 8 years ago on the promise to preserve North County's quirky character, enhance our region's infrastructure, and keep our public spaces pristine and beautiful. I've been successfully championing these goals, fighting for improvements and bettering our resident's lives. But there's more work to be done, particularly at the state level.

Problems like sea-level rise, homelessness, and drought link the fates of coastal cities throughout the district. Del Mar in particular faces an extraordinary challenge with relocating the train tracks away from the bluff. As the Chair of SANDAG, I successfully fought for the inclusion of that project in the Regional Transportation Plan. When we hired a new executive director and he travelled to Encinitas to see my city I instead took him to the edge of the railroad along the Del Mar bluffs to see the reality there. As your State Senator, I'll work to secure the funds to get this project done on-time and under-budget.

Now more than ever, we need leaders who will say, "No problem is too big or too small." Whether it's building a rail trail or picking up the trash on the freeway, I have the fire in the belly needed to get it done. That results-driven, commonsense leadership is what I'll deliver from Sacramento.

As a local elected official, it's clear that the conditions in which we live are increasingly determined at the state level. From combatting climate change to fighting poverty, the state of California is at the forefront of many important issues. It's critically important that our region has someone who understands our unique challenges. And as a coastal mayor with a record of achieving real results, I believe I'm the right woman for the job.

Catherine Blakespear serves as the Mayor of Encinitas and Chair of SANDAG. She is running for State Senate in District 38, which includes Del Mar along with several coastal cities in San Diego County, plus parts of Orange County. Del Mar was previously in a district represented by Senate Pro Tem Toni Atkins (D) but redistricting resulted in Del Mar being moved into the district currently represented by Senator Pat Bates (R), who is termed out. Mayor Blakespear lives in Cardiff with her husband, two teenage children, two cats, five chickens, and a colony of honey bees. You can learn more by visiting catherineblakespear.com. □

have another year to do these kinds of things, but there's also the pandemic and the worries of getting people sick," Toby said. "That's the conflicting feeling here." □



by Ashley Simpkins, Program Director

Wrapping up the holidays: DMCC celebrated seniors!

On December 16, 2021, seniors gathered on the Del Mar Civic Center Plaza to celebrate the holiday season. We served homemade hot cocoa and cookies lovingly made by members of DMCC's Social and Good Times committee. We enjoyed live entertainment courtesy of Mayor Dwight Worden on acoustic guitar, the duo of Adam Kaye and Beatrice Crosbie, and a holiday-themed singalong from DMCC's Singing Together group. Even Santa stopped by to check out our party!

The next day, Project Joy volunteers from the Del Mar Garden Club delivered gifts to spread extra cheer to 54 senior households that needed it the most. Project Joy is a collaboration between DMCC and DMGC and is quickly becoming a beloved annual tradition.

All of DMCC's holiday celebrations were planned in order to bring people together during a time when we depend on the kindness of neighbors more than ever, and we thank the San Diego Seniors Community Foundation for contributing funding. We hope your holiday festivities were as joyful as ours.

Volunteer of the Month - December

DMCC's Volunteer of the Month for December 2021 was Nate McCay, who was honored for being a great volunteer driver for years, and for always being willing to roll up his sleeves and take on uniquely difficult tasks.

DMCC programs and services depend on our incredible volunteers! To learn more about Nate and serving as a volunteer driver, visit dmcc.cc/volunteerofthemoth.

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

Please visit our website at dmcc.cc or contact the DMCC office at (858) 792-7565 or dmcc@dmcc.cc. □



on the left: DMCC's Singing Together group leads a singalong at the holiday party. on the right: Fran receives her gift from Project Joy

AGENDA 22

by Mayor Dwight Worden | Seaview Avenue

As I begin my second term of service as Del Mar Mayor I reflect on some of my goals for the coming year. Some are essential, some are modest, and some are ambitious.

Essential.

- **Civility.** I am determined to set a tone of respect and civility where we can disagree without being disagreeable and where everyone is welcome and heard with respect.
- **Responsibility.** I am committed to a balanced budget and to working within our means. This means making tough choices, acknowledging we can't do everything, but doing what we can well.
- **Public Health and Safety.** I support our outstanding lifeguard, fire, ambulance, public works, and sheriff services who work in the field for all of us every day. And, I am committed to doing what we can to keep our community safe during Covid.

Other Goals.

- **Climate & Environment.** Addressing climate change is the challenge of a generation, and a high priority for me as mayor. In the past, Del Mar has been a leader, punching way above our weight on environmental issues. Lately, sadly, that hasn't been the case, but it should be. Other key environmental goals include sea level rise adaptation, clean energy, lagoon protection, building electrification, and more.
- **Housing.** Implementing our new Housing Element, especially plans for 54 affordable units at the fairgrounds, will require much work, lots of dollars, and sustained commitment. I'm all in.
- **Rail.** Relocating the rail line to an inland tunnel is a priority, as is minimizing damage to the beach and bluff until relocation. Del Mar community input on these issues is a priority. While there is finally support for rail relocation at SANDAG, NCTD, and the regional, state, and federal level, Del Mar will host the tunnel and our input is critical. I pledge to do what I can to assure your voices are heard, and the relocation happens on schedule.
- **Taking care of basics.** Paving streets, fixing potholes, maintaining landscaping and parks, providing great sewer, trash, and water service are important goals.
- **Undergrounding.** Undergrounding our citywide electrical service is beginning, and will play out over many years. I am committed to doing this equitably and prudently, with determination and persistence for the long haul this project will take, and with assistance to residents and neighborhoods along the way.
- **Community Engagement.** I am excited about restarting our advisory committees. These are important vehicles for citizens to engage their city government. →

Critters

TREE HOUSES

by Julie Maxey-Allison | 10th Street

Punta de arboles, Point of Trees, the place we know as the Torrey Pines Reserve with its abundance of trees on the coast, served as a landmark for Spanish explorers in the 1500s. Years later, in 1850, Dr. Charles Parry came upon an unnamed species of tree only found in Del Mar's close environs (and Santa Rosa Island) that he named the Torrey Pine in honor of his mentor John Torrey.



*Baby egrets near the lagoon.
Photo by John Weare.*

Trees of all types have since joined the Torrey, a happy image of our city, and grown up in Del Mar bringing their beauty and practicality, shade, the exchange of carbon dioxide for oxygen, homes for birds and other critters, good for us and our planet.

To keep our trees healthy, it is time to trim, thin, lace, clean up, and fertilize them— opening views and letting in light— before our bird population's thoughts turn towards nesting. They may get ready, now scouting out the perfect home sites for their next generation and will begin to nest in March singing their mostly melodic songs and showing off their beautiful colors in spring time. From their home bases in their tree houses, they are a form of pest control, eating up many thousands of pesky insects we don't then have to deal with and they are a distribution source for seeds during their daily flights over wide areas ensuring biodiversity. →

I will continue my monthly "drop in" office hours, and will do my best to respond to every email or phone call. My email is: dworden@roadrunner.com and my phone is 619.977.4700. We have great talent in the community and I will do my best to benefit from its engagement. ▣



Sandpiper

DEL MAR'S COMMUNITY JOURNAL

BARNOUW BOOST

The Del Mar Community Alliance is grateful to the 57 donor families who responded this Fall to our 2021 Campaign for The Sandpiper. Jeff Barnouw, long-time Del Mar citizen, member of the Sandpiper's Editorial Board, and generous community supporter, challenged Del Marians to make contributions to DMCA in support of the Sandpiper, this year celebrating its 25th year in service to our city. Funds will be used to support printing and free distribution of the all-volunteer community journal, as well as to expand our reach through social media. Jeff pledged \$10,000 if the community would match or exceed that amount – and they did! By December 31, we raised \$31,810. Of those 57 donors, 37% (21 families) were brand-new contributors, 100% of the DMCA Board donated above and beyond their prior 2021 gifts, and 10 other families (previous donors) renewed their support.

When it is safe to do so, we will have a special event at a beautiful Del Mar home, for all those who contribute to DMCA and The Sandpiper. We want to celebrate together and have a chance to say “thank you” in person! In the meantime, please accept our deepest gratitude.

~ Ellie Haviland, DMCA Board Chair



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Photos by Julie Maxey-Allison. □

FENCING FINALE

Last Chance from NCTD Board

by Don Mosier | Rimini Road

At its Jan. 20, 2022 Board meeting, the North County Transit District (NCTD) approved full fencing for the Del Mar Bluffs, unless the City of Del Mar accepts the terms of a “modified fencing plan” by Feb. 28. The modified plan reduces the total fencing and adds lower-profile fencing for significant areas, but requires Del Mar to sign a license agreement that shifts certain liability and maintenance obligations to Del Mar. The fencing motion passed 7-0, with 1 abstention (Gaasterland), and 1 not voting (Rodriguez).

Del Mar’s alternate on the NCTD Board, Council member Terry Gaasterland, made a substitute motion to postpone the vote on fencing until there is an opportunity to conduct environmental and geotechnical studies; to separate the lower and upper bluff fencing into 2 separate projects; and to defer the fencing until there has been environmental review and compliance with the Coastal Act and CEQA. Board member Rodriguez seconded the motion, but the substitute motion failed by a 1-7 vote, with one member not voting (Rodriguez apparently having problems staying

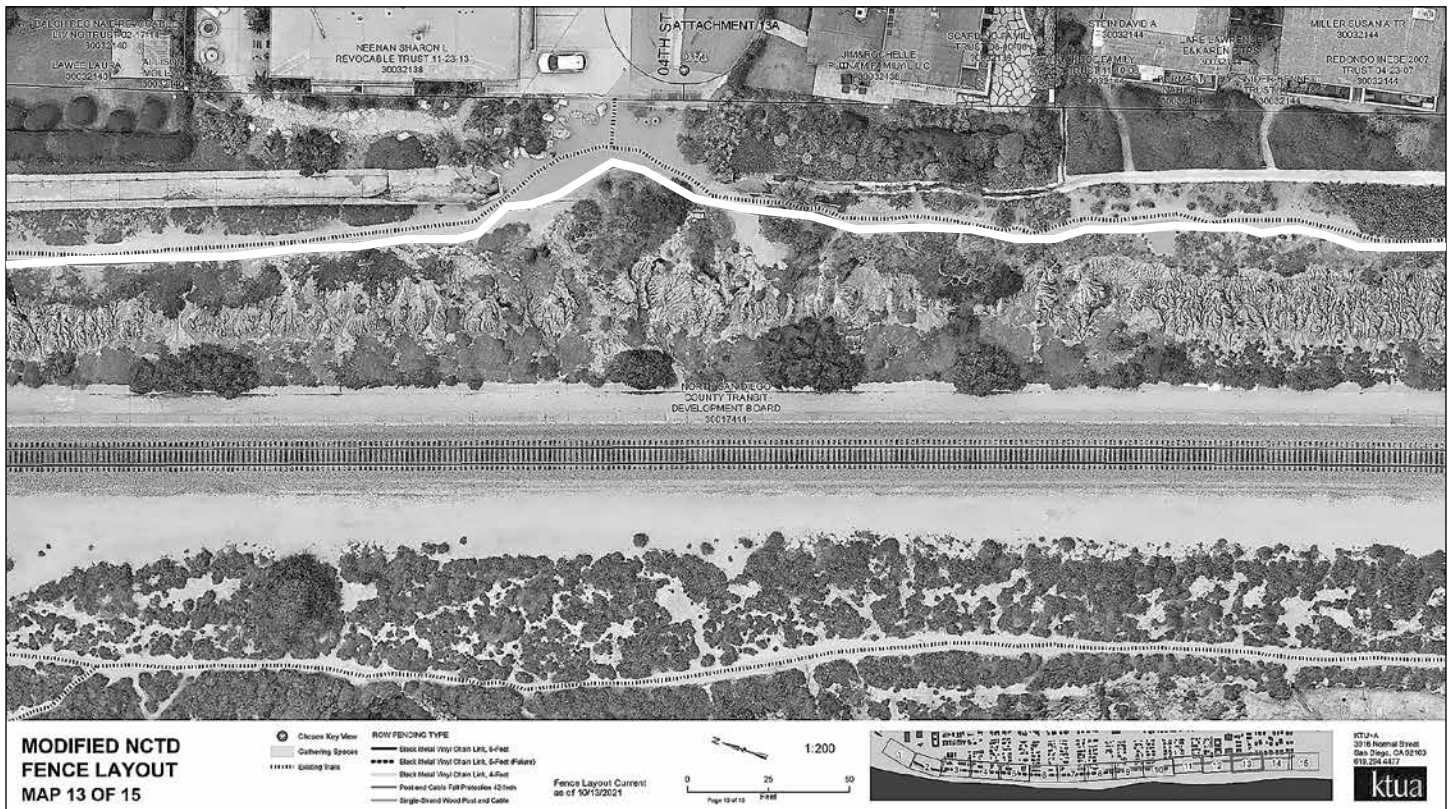
connected to the Zoom meeting).

The approved plan fences the entire area from Coast Blvd. south to the Del Mar Woods south boundary, using 6’ high welded wire mesh fencing throughout, except for 4’ fencing within 150’ of the railroad crossing at Coast Blvd. The fencing would be installed in two phases: the first phase to begin within 3-4 months, and the second phase occurring after NCTD Legal Counsel review, and identification of funding (approx. 2 years from now). Phase 1 includes fencing from Coast Blvd. to the south end of Seagrove Park, a short length of fence at 13th St., and a long section of fence from just south of 9th St. to approx. the south Del Mar Woods boundary.

The “modified fencing plan” is essentially the plan that was presented by NCTD to the Del Mar City Council in October 2021. It reduces the original 12,960 linear feet of fencing to 6,748 linear feet, and changes the original plan for 6’ fencing throughout, to a combination of some 6’ fencing and some lower-profile types, including 3’6” post-and-cable fencing. NCTD Board Chair Tony Kranz described the modified plan as having been developed by the Working Group comprising NCTD, the City of Del Mar, and California Coastal Commission.

The City of Del Mar vigorously opposed the approved plan in several letters submitted to NCTD over Mayor Worden’s signature, asserting

continued on page 9



The solid white line on this map shows the location of the proposed fencing in the vicinity of 4th St. Under the “modified fencing plan,” this would be a 3’6” post-and-cable fence. Under the staff-recommended plan approved by the Board if Del Mar does not accept the license agreement terms relating to liability and maintenance, it will be a 6’ tall black welded mesh fence. Map source: NCTD

Please note that a color version of this map may be viewed on the Sandpiper website.

WASTEFUL WALLS

by Julie Maxey-Allison | 10th Street



Photo by Julie Maxey-Allison.

Efforts continue, as they have since 1998, to thwart the ongoing erosion of the bluffs, the substructure beneath Del Mar's train tracks. Work is currently concentrated at 4th Street, the site of the February 28, 2021 collapse that took down the slab of concrete retaining wall put in place in 1910. The construction, still being tweaked, looks as if it may anchor the 288 foot long section at a cost of \$10.5 million—more or less.

Look about. Adjoining bluffs continue to drop off in little bits and big clunks. And, who knows where and when the next collapse will occur? □

FROM FENCING *page 8*

that only limited, targeted fencing was appropriate, and asking that fencing south of 11th St. be deferred until SANDAG's Coastal Connections study, which will identify 4-6 potential legal crossings, is completed (expected this summer). The City also asserted that environmental review and compliance, geotechnical studies, and collaboration with key government stakeholders including SANDAG and California Coastal Commission are critical to any fencing plan, but they are missing from the proposal approved by the NCTD Board on Jan. 20.

Chair Kranz noted that the modified plan would leave the upper bluff trail still accessible, which he identified as an appropriate result. He reiterated, however, that the liability issue was essential, and the license agreement proffered to Del Mar is similar to ones that have been accepted by his city (Encinitas) and other cities in similar situations.

Gaasterland asserted that the City of Del Mar is willing to enter into a license agreement, but has requested clarifications with respect to the liability provisions and maintenance obligations, which require that Del Mar assume responsibility for repair, maintenance and replacement of the fences as needed. Board members Sharon Jenkins and Corinna Contreras noted that other cities have accepted liability and funded certain costs in similar circumstances, and didn't think it was fair to treat Del Mar differently. □

Commentary

INSIDE GAME

by Bud Emerson | Klish Way

Members of the super majority on the Del Mar City Council cannot seem to get out of the campaign/outside organizer/protester mode. As office holders they are insiders now, so their job is not grandstanding on TV and petition gathering. They need to do the hard work of governing. So far they have squandered the regional credibility and trust our small city has earned over the years.

Many of the decisions that affect us are made at the regional and state levels — we need knowledgeable, persuasive voices at those tables. Instead of working to build alliances, Council Member Gaasterland does things that undermine neighboring jurisdictions. She tried repeatedly to offload Del Mar's share of affordable housing onto other cities.

Acting on her own, she gave public testimony urging the County not to join the Community Energy Alliance that we were forming with neighboring cities.

She supports Council Member Quirk, an avowed mass transit critic, as our representative on the North County Transit District (NCTD).

While other cities are working constructively to shape new state housing laws to fit their community needs, she and Martinez are spending their time encouraging petition drives to overturn state legislation.

So it should not be surprising that neighboring city Council Members who sit on the NCTD Board vote against us on train track issues. It should not be surprising that state housing officials and legislators discount our views given our reputation for game-playing on housing issues. It should not be surprising that our influence with the Coastal Commission is waning after we withdrew our sea level adaptation plan.

They did a masterful job of organizing campaigns to get elected, but just getting into office is not enough to protect Del Mar's interests. Once they get elected, we need Council Members who can work constructively on earning the trust of our neighbors, respecting regional and state priorities, strengthening regional relationships, and building political alliances with other cities, the county, and the state. They are outsiders no longer — they have the power and they need to use it to develop an inside game. □

MUSIC MENTOR

Roger Reynolds

by Jordan Kuspa | Longboat Way

In a career spanning over 60 years and counting, composer (and long-time Del Mar resident) Roger Reynolds has created a body of work known for its immediacy, intensity, and intricacy.

Though he is perhaps most famous for his 1989 Pulitzer Prize-winning work for string orchestra, *Whispers Out of Time* (a reflection on poet John Ashbery's *Self-Portrait in a Convex Mirror*, which was itself awarded a Pulitzer Prize in 1976), Reynolds' work often engages with spatialization and processing of sound via electronic means. Through experiments and collaborations with colleagues at UCSD and elsewhere, Reynolds has sought to unlock new expressive potential in the interaction of acoustic instruments and computer manipulation of sound. Sometimes the results are so seamless that it can seem impossible to find the boundary between traditional acoustic and computer-controlled instruments.

A great example of Reynolds' ability to expand and transform a traditional ensemble (in this case, the orchestra), is his *Symphony "Vertigo."* Composed in 1987 for a large orchestra with "quadraphonic computer processed sound," it can be heard on the album *Roger Reynolds: Whispers Out of Time* (works for orchestra) on the Mode label. Performed by the La Jolla Symphony and conducted by long-time collaborator Harvey Sollberger, the work begins with a powerful sustained sonority from violins and winds, punctuated by crashing percussive chords and rapid ascending scales. A few minutes into the opening movement however, we begin to hear a peculiar sound infiltrate the orchestra. It sounds like a piano, but quickly



begins to stutter and refract itself, until we understand that manipulations beyond the scope of human performers are occurring. The blend of acoustic and electronic is magical and transportive.

Symphony "Vertigo" is an ideal place for the interested listener to begin an exploration of Reynolds' work. Another excellent starting point is the more recent set of twelve *Piano Etudes*. Composed in two books of six between 2010 and 2017, these etudes are composed in the grand tradition of virtuosic concert pieces like those of Chopin, Liszt, Mendelssohn, Debussy, and Ligeti. Recorded by pianist Eric Huebner (again for Mode Records), the pieces dance and fly across the familiar sonic landscape of the piano, while simultaneously sounding unlike anything one may have heard before. Here is an incredible and often thunderous virtuosity but also an impish wit and a delicacy of gesture. Even without the use of cutting-edge technology, Reynolds' musical ideas are fresh and sonically explorative.

Reynolds has taught at UCSD for over 50 years, and is as beloved a mentor as he is a creative artist. A recent student, Elisabet Curbelo González, has this to say about Reynolds' ability to get the best out of his students: "Roger Reynolds is a wonderful mentor. He asks the right questions to make students think and build confident opinions about important subjects that they may not have thought of otherwise.... He is an example to follow as a teacher, as a person, and as a composer."

Ed. Note: Jordan Kuspa is the founder and director of Del Mar International Composers Symposium (DMICS). Elisabet Curbelo González was a Composition Fellow at DMICS in 2019. □



*Roger Reynolds at the DMCC's Gala on Oct. 2, 2021.
Photo by Dave Stotts for DMCC.*

GELATO HATS

by Julie Maxey-Allison | 10th Street

Apply the musing “what’s in a name” to the recently opened **An’s Hatmakers**, Del Mar’s shop on the first level of the Plaza for locally sourced, handmade gelato. Our An’s is an offshoot of An’s Dry Cleaning, a gelato shop in North Park whose name gives a nod to the space’s previous occupants. Our An’s, decorated with—hats—offers originally titled flavors such as “Canvas” (olive oil & rosemary), close to vanilla as is “Newsboy,” a vanilla gelato with added nuts, and chocolate by another name is “Trapper” and strawberry goes by “Fascinator.” The hat related names are posted on hat boxes above the counter. Recipes for flavors include fruits, vegetables and ingredients outside the (hat) box such as beets, and herbs, spices and more surprises such as cream cheese. Flavor choices will rotate. Choose from Small and Large Bowlers—cups—or Party Hats—cones. Pints are also available. Prices start at \$6.00. Hours: Sunday-Thursday 11:00 AM-9:00 PM, Friday and Saturday 11:00 AM-10:00 PM. 1555 Camino Del Mar, suite 115. www.ansgelato.com. ■



Photos by Julie Maxey-Allison.

UPSTAIRS DOWNSTAIRS

by Julie Maxey-Allison | 10th Street

Cevasco’s, opened early in the year, features “modern, authentic Italian food sourced from all of Italy with a highlight on seafood,” says owner Christophe Cevasco. Christophe and his wife Guen, experienced in the restaurant business, are also owners of the established **Beeside Balcony** right above on the upper floor. Now they are doubling your dining choices.

With their food, made in house from “scratch,” the tone at Cevasco’s tends toward cool sophistication in the renovated space. The new bar and lounge area behind the glass doors serve up cocktails and offer an old world wine list. Those glass door partitions do glide open to expand the indoor/outdoor seating at elegant tables topped with linen tablecloths. The restaurant is open Monday-Friday 11:30 AM-10:00 PM, Saturday and Sunday 10:00 AM-10:00 PM. 1201 Camino Del Mar. 858-755-0000, christophe@beesidebalcony.com. ■



Christophe and Guen Cevasco, owners of Cevasco’s and Beeside Balcony. Photo by Julie Maxey-Allison.

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ASHLEY AT LAST

by Ashley Jones, Del Mar City Manager

The Sandpiper asked our new City Manager to comment on her appointment and the challenges facing her. Here is her response.



Photo courtesy Ashley Jones.

In February 2021, the City Council asked that I step in and lead the City for an interim period following the prior City Manager's departure, which I was happy to do. It helped to minimize impacts to City staff and provided the City Council with the time they needed to decide how they wanted to proceed with identifying a new City Manager. During the almost 6 years I have been serving the Del Mar community as Administrative Services

Director and now in the role of City Manager (I started in May 2016), I have developed relationships with a broad spectrum of Del Mar residents and have a very good understanding of the community dynamics. I have also had the opportunity to build strong working relationships with Council members, understanding what is most important to each of them in their role as elected officials. These factors, along with the fact that we have a fantastic executive team and City staff, were those that led me to accept the permanent position of City Manager in December 2021.

If there is one thing I have learned about Del Mar, there is never a dull moment! This is a community that doesn't shy away from being engaged and taking on big issues,

which I appreciate. In my opinion, local government works best when the community is paying attention and staying engaged, no matter the topic. In Del Mar, big topics can be things like SANDAG's bluff stabilization and rail realignment efforts; NCTD's proposed fencing plan; preparing for sea level rise; developing and implementing a Housing Element that works for Del Mar, including pursuit of affordable units at the Del Mar Fairgrounds; Climate Action Plan implementation; recovering from significant revenue losses resulting from the pandemic, and utility undergrounding to name a few.

One of the biggest challenges I have faced so far as City Manager is managing the City during a global pandemic, the impacts of which are unprecedented. It is extremely important to me to take every step possible to help prevent the spread of the virus and maintain a safe and healthy work environment for City employees and the public we serve. We've been able to do that so far by taking a variety of actions, which include maintaining reduced staffing levels at City facilities, requiring indoor masking in City facilities (whether required under the public health order or not), and most recently by implementing an employee vaccination policy.

For me, one of the most rewarding aspects of being a City Manager, and public servant in general, is being able to make a difference and do things that have a positive impact on the local community. I love getting to know community members and hope that residents find me, along with the rest of our City staff, to be approachable and helpful. Being responsive and providing a very high level of customer service is a top priority for me. I also like being able to work with the Council and staff to find creative solutions to difficult issues whenever possible. Throughout my more than twenty-one years in local government, I have always endeavored to leave any agency I have worked for in a better place than I found it, which I hope to do in Del Mar. ■