



# Sandpiper

DEL MAR'S COMMUNITY JOURNAL

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## Roving Teen Reporter

### SURFBOARD SHAPING

by Jerry Wu | Torrey Pines High School Senior

Here in San Diego, the sight of wetsuit-clad surfers flowing over the sensuous waves while balancing on their boards with bent knees, like one with the ocean, is all too familiar. Meanwhile, the evolution and experimental history of surfboard artisanship responsible for the sport's allure remains often overlooked.

The founder of the family-business Cardiff Surf Co, Jeff Grygera, has dedicated a lifetime to pursuing and perfecting his skills as a surfboard shaper. At age 12, Grygera, during a visit to Hansen Surfboards store in Encinitas, noticed the owner Don Hansen cleaning out a shed, stacked with old, used surfboards, to be converted into a shaping room. If he helped clean the room, Hansen told Grygera, he would be gifted a surfboard, except with a broken nose. Intrigued by the offer, he made short work of the task before bringing the surfboard home, and with his father, they patched it up.

From his 50 years of experience working apprenticeships and with top shapers worldwide, Grygera has witnessed a dynamism in the progression of surfboard designs and manufacturing. What has always remained constant is the high-level skillset required.

"The skill level is you must be a hundred percent. You cannot just come in and say to somebody, 'are you hiring? I want to be a surfboard builder.' They will not hire you. You must have years under your belt, to even apprentice for one of the big companies," Grygera said.

With the technological advancements in the industry, many local shapers, including Grygera, who relied on a woodworking tool called a planer to handshape their boards, now also operate with CNC computer shaping machines to help accommodate the growing demand for surfboards.

"Everything was hand done before. You had to plane it, sand it and shape it. Today, the CNC machine does about

70% of the work. It keeps the boards consistent, the models accurate," Grygera said

The materials of boards are continuously experimented with and put into repeated trials depending on wave currents and environmental regulations, among other factors. Since the 1900s, most surfboards made from wooden planks from Koa, Ula and redwood trees, have incorporated polyurethane and polystyrene foams, enabling a lighter, more durable design.

"I have noticed [shapers] all return to polyester foams the most. The polyester foam resin board is the go-to. That is the one everyone feels comfortable with," said Billy Watson, an employee at Mitch's Surf Shop in Solana Beach that sells raw materials for shapers.

Like the open experimentation of new maneuvers and actions surfers try out in waters, constant trial and error of even previous trends play an integral part in producing advancements in surfboard designs. Joe Blair, a shaper with over 40 years of experience in the industry, points out the preference for three-fin thruster boards, with twin fins also growing fashion with its ability to make shorter turns.

Countless shapers and surfers have dedicated their lives to this craftsmanship, with Jeff Grygera knowingly acknowledging his career to spread the love of surfing as his

life's sole purpose. And to see the evolution of his boards now being used by others, he rejoices at the thought of his craft answering the ocean's calling. ■



*Been Surfing on 11th Street. Painting by Mac McMillan.*

## A STORY TO REMEMBER

Periodically we remind ourselves and new readers about the Sandpiper story, why and how it was created and what we are trying to accomplish. So here's the story as we know it.

More than two decades ago a group of residents who had been involved in the formative stages of our town were concerned that Del Mar's reputation was being harmed by divisive attacks from a publication with authors who were anonymous. Instead of being defensive and reactive, the group decided to start telling the real Del Mar story in a positive way. The Sandpiper was created to tell that story as reflected in our Community Plan, our "constitution," a truly remarkable detailed vision of how to protect our small town quality of life.

The Sandpiper was born to advocate for core values of the Community Plan.

- carefully managing our built environment
- preserving and nurturing our natural environment
- involving our human environment

We operate by telling stories about how decisions get made about land use: the size, location, and neighborhood →



# 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.

**Editorial Board:** Jeff Barnouw, Bud Emerson, Virginia Lawrence, Hylton Lonstein, Julie Maxey-Allison, Don Mosier, Betty Wheeler.

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## Fairgrounds Future

The Del Mar Fairgrounds has awarded a one-year contract for \$282,000 to London Moeder Advisors for a highest and best use study for the 330-acre state-owned property, including the main campus, the golf and tennis facilities, and Horse Park. The charge to the advisors is to develop a "pragmatic, fiscally responsible land use plan, including appropriate upgrades---and addition of new facilities to support current and new program opportunities." The advisors are also charged with engaging "the public and community thought leaders" to develop a plan that is consistent with the long-term objectives of the fairgrounds and its historic role as the site of the annual San Diego County Fair and as an evacuation/resiliency center. □

character of proposed structures and structural changes. Most important are the deliberations of the Design Review Board and the Planning Commission, as well as the City Council. And we try to stay in touch with decisions outside of Del Mar that affect our quality of life.

We tell stories about efforts to preserve and protect our lagoon, beach, ocean, clean air, clean water, trees, greenery, bluffs, flowers, and open space. We try to cover all of the natural assets that enhance the character of our community. This includes regional ecological matters that affect us.

We tell stories about the many talents of the citizens of Del Mar, their dedication to community building, their accomplishments here and beyond. We encourage citizens to be informed and involved to assure that smart decisions get made about how the community develops. We encourage respectful debate about important community issues.

We try to evaluate candidates for City Council who have demonstrated through words and civic involvement their understanding of the Community Plan, its vision, and its inherent values.

We try to live by a few operational guidelines:

- all of our editors and writers are volunteers
- donations are used only for printing, mailing, website expenses
- the more writers the better
- all viewpoints need to be represented
- all writing is governed by principles of civic discourse

Del Mar is a small community with truly unique qualities. We have a large appetite for building a vibrant community through our core values. There is always much to learn about, much to talk about, much to decide. Our job is to encourage your voices in telling the stories about this important work. □

# "THE SOUND" AT DEL MAR FAIRGROUNDS

by Jessica Smiley | Via Esperia

While the Del Mar Fair attracts thousands during its two-week run every summer, The Sound will provide year-round entertainment at the Fairgrounds, while attracting talent that has not historically included Del Mar in their touring schedule. "Tonight is just the tip-off to just how well received this is going to be," said Fairgrounds CEO Carlene Moore at a VIP opening event January 12th.



*Photo by Jessica Smiley.*

On display, in addition to performances by the B-Side Players and DJs Mazee + Oli, was the kind of streetwear usually saved for North Park or Encinitas: fitted caps, Stan Smith sneakers and even a Virgil Normal tee, speaking to the promise of a hipper, more urban draw. The Sound is a project five years in the making: awarded by the 22nd District Agricultural Association as a strategic play to replace off-track betting with a more lucrative endeavor. It took three years to construct through the pandemic.

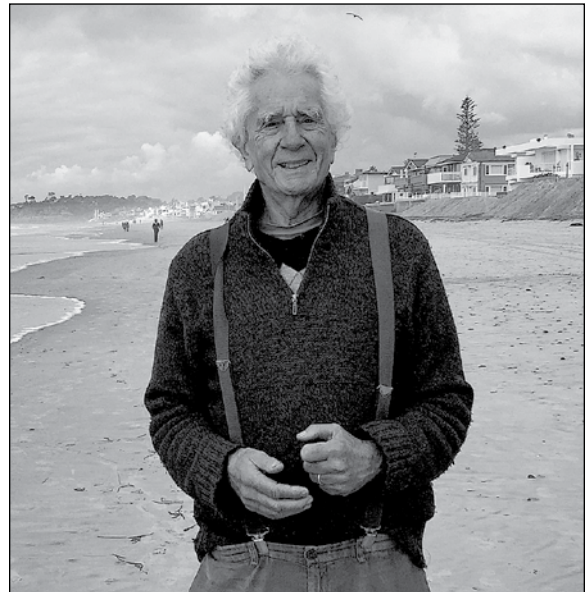
The 1,900-person state-of-the-art venue, retrofitted inside a historic building, boasts a lofty feel with a large upper balcony, open lobby, impressive lighting, and ample catering and merchandise spaces throughout. It will be operated by Belly Up, the Solana Beach-based venue that has a strong track record of identifying and supporting iconic acts through their indie phases. While smaller acts will be booked throughout the year, The Sound will be coming out of the gate with heavier hitters: Ziggy Marley, will be the inaugural performance, has already sold out both nights in February (only days before his late father's 78th birthday); Jason Mraz in March is also sold out.

"For the first night out, I'm really happy," says Rick Stanley of Sound Image, who installed the sound system and →

# REMEMBERING CHARLIE KHOURY

by Anne Farrell | 15th Street

Equal parts Don Quixote, Atticus Finch, and Billy Jack. Charlie Khoury, who died on November 15, 2022, was for nearly 54 years a Criminal Defense and Appellate Law attorney who was a fierce advocate for the rights of forgotten men and women wrongfully imprisoned or desperately in need of legal help. Charlie had many other passions including beekeeping, environmental conservation, progressive politics, music-making, and running. Many of us saw him, with his wild shock of curly white hair, slowly jogging up and down 15th Street or along the beach. Charlie was a big supporter of our Community Plan, The Sandpiper, and Del Mar Community Connections. But his greatest passions were always his family and friends, and he has left a hole in their hearts as well as in the heart of our Del Mar community. □



*Charlie Khoury. Photo by Carolyn Khoury.*

has a long-standing relationship with the Belly Up. The uniformity and openness of the space will make it easier to achieve a high-quality sound. "The Belly Up is an institution in our industry, and now [Del Mar's] got something that can hopefully carry over a similar vibe."

Speaking to the eclectic nature of what can happen in this space, although the venue will host activities like beverage festivals, concerts won't be offered during the Fair until 2024. Other upcoming performances include The Flaming Lips, Big Gigantic, Colin Hay, Sylvan Esso, and Steve Aoki. Moore sees The Sound as "a game-changer for us as the Fairgrounds, the City of Del Mar, and the larger community." More information can be found at **TheSoundSD.com.** □



## ANOTHER SCARY MUTANT

by Don Mosier | Rimini Road

## DEL MAR'S VALENTINES!

by Hylton Lonstein, President,  
(and dog dad to Fernando)

With Valentine's Day approaching, it's a good time to commemorate Del Mar's special relationship with dogs (no offense intended to Del Mar's beloved cats, chickens, or...).

Our Dog Beach is spectacular. Shores Park creates a sense of community among those who bring their dogs in the mornings before 8:30, or specified afternoons after 3:30, for "play dates." And as any dog walking the Camino del Mar sidewalks knows, lots of businesses have treats out for the taking for the canine set.

Del Mar Foundation serves the people of Del Mar, but we try not to forget our "dog residents." Our grants have helped to ensure that drinking fountains around town serve dogs as well as people, as did our grant to support the purchase of Shores Park. Many of our events are dog-friendly, and some are dog-centric by design, such as our Valentine's Day dog event at Shores Park, and our Halloween Parade with a special costume contest for dogs (and their people).

To celebrate our 40th Anniversary in 2022, we created a "Beachside Besties" perpetual calendar featuring Del Mar dogs, perfect for recording birthdays, anniversaries, and other recurring events (available at the DMF office).

To get the word on all of our events – dog-centric and otherwise – sign up for DMF's email list: [bit.ly/dmf-signup](https://bit.ly/dmf-signup).

We hope you'll join DMF stalwarts Fernando (DMF's reigning "First Dog"), Loki (center) and Barley (right) at Shores Park on Valentine's Day! □



A new COVID Omicron virus variant named XBB.1.5 began spreading in December and represented 28% of new cases in the U.S. by mid-January. The new mutations in the spike protein increase binding to the virus receptor on human cells and result in higher transmission rates than current circulating Omicron strains.

There is no evidence as yet that XBB.1.5 causes more severe disease, but it is different enough from the vaccine strains used in the first round Moderna and Pfizer vaccines that those who have not had the bivalent vaccine booster are unlikely to be protected from infection or hospitalization. The bivalent booster should protect against serious disease caused by XBB.1.5.

Table 1. COVID death rate remains high.

	DAILY AVG. ON JAN. 22	PER 100,000	14-DAY CHANGE
Cases	47,290	14	-28%
Test positivity	12%	—	-22%
Hospitalized	37,474	11	-22%
In I.C.U.s	4,791	1	-16%
Deaths	489	<1	-4%

Source: <https://www.nytimes.com/interactive/2021/us/covid-cases.html>

This means that it is imperative that those over 65 years of age get that booster shot as soon as possible. If you did get the bivalent booster as soon as it was available, watch for future guidance on whether you should get another shot 6 months later when immunity wanes in older individuals. The bivalent vaccine is protective against hospitalization and death, data that was missing when the vaccine was approved by the FDA.

A recent study from Israel was carried out from the end of September until mid-December and looked at 622,701 people aged 65 and over who were eligible for the bivalent booster. "Hospitalization due to COVID-19 occurred in 6 bivalent recipients and 297 participants who did not" receive it, the study said. "Death due to COVID-19 occurred in 1 bivalent recipient and 73 participants who did not."

Source: [reut.rs/3WN10gi](https://reut.rs/3WN10gi)

Almost all of us are tired of dealing with COVID restrictions and many seem to believe (or act like) the pandemic is over. It is not. Table 1 presents data as of January 22nd for COVID cases in the U.S. While the data show lower cases from the post-holiday peak, note that almost 500 citizens are dying every day from COVID. The vast majority of these deaths occur in individuals over 65 years of →

# JAWS: HOW MANY?

by Julie Maxey-Allison | 10th Street

*An interview with Dr. Christopher G. Lowe: Professor and Director of the Cal State Long Beach Shark Lab, Dept. of Biological Sciences.*

## **What is the Cal State Long Beach Shark Lab monitoring in Del Mar?**

We are monitoring the presence of tagged juvenile white sharks along the coast, including those tagged at Del Mar. We have a large array of acoustic receivers that can detect those sharks so that we can 1) determine how much time they spend close to shore, 2) where they travel after leaving an area (assuming there are receivers there to detect the tags), 3) determine their activity and diving behavior along a beach.

## **Are the majority of the great white sharks in our area juveniles?**

Yes, we have rarely seen or detected adult white sharks off Del Mar in our 3 years of working there. An adult white shark is defined as a shark larger than 11-12' for males, 12-14' for females. A majority of sharks we have seen and tagged are 7-8' long and clearly juveniles.

## **Is there a count on their number?**

We have tagged 66 juvenile white sharks off Del Mar and Torrey Pines over the last 3 years.

## **Following up on the November 2022 rare incident of a great white shark biting the swimmer Lyn Jutronich, who spoke of the attack from her hospital bed: Is there any information as to her recovery?**

You would need to speak directly to her for that information. All shark bites are rare, compared to say number of drownings, stingray injuries, or wave-related injuries at our local beaches, despite a growing shark population. Despite their rarity, we do see slight increases in shark bites on humans during the fall months, which has been attributed to the time period when adult white sharks are closest to the CA coastline. But again, still surprisingly rare compared to other beach related incidents. ▣

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age. The daily death toll of COVID infections has remained in this range for the last 6 months. For comparison, the CDC data for the 2021-22 flu season recorded 5000 deaths for November through March, or 41 deaths per day. Some think that COVID is just like the flu, but in fact it is more than 10 times as deadly.

About 65% of U.S. citizens over 65 have already got the bivalent vaccine booster. If you haven't got it yet, get it now! ▣



by Ashley Simpkins, Program Director

## **Will You Be DMCC's Valentine?**

An old favorite is back! The Champagne and Chocolate Community Celebration is an annual open house-style event (back for the first time since 2020) for older adults and those who care about them to come to our headquarters, enjoy some bubbly and chocolate on DMCC, and connect with the community. On Friday, February 10, we hope we'll see you at the Del Mar Community Building (225 9th St) between 1:30 and 3:30pm. This is a great opportunity to meet DMCC's participants, volunteers, community partners, and staff, and to learn more about our many activities, services, and volunteer opportunities. Bring your questions and ideas! New this year: the San Diego County LiveWell team will be on-hand to provide heart health information and screenings as part of the Love Your Heart event.

Proof of Covid-19 vaccination plus one booster is required to participate at any in-person DMCC activity. We request pre-registration in order to expedite the check-in process - and so that we can make sure to have enough bubbly and chocolate for everyone! To register, please visit [www.dmcc.cc/champagneandchocolate](http://www.dmcc.cc/champagneandchocolate).

## **Tax Time!**

On Friday, February 17 at 11am, DMCC Treasurer Wayne Otchis, a retired accountant who ran his own local tax preparation service for decades, will make a remote presentation about what Del Mar seniors need to know as they prepare their 2022 taxes and plan their 2023 finances. He will review changes in tax laws at the federal and state level, and he will be available for questions. In order to receive the joining link, please register for the program - you can find the registration link by visiting [www.dmcc.cc/calendar](http://www.dmcc.cc/calendar).

## **Volunteer of the Month - January**

DMCC's Volunteer of the Month for January 2023 was Barbara Ann Paulovich. Barbara Ann was nominated for volunteer of the month by Social and Good Times Committee Chair Linda Chisari for being a great team member, providing essential support in planning committee meetings and at events like the Cookies and Cocoa Holiday Party, and most especially for being a great cookie baker!

DMCC programs and services depend on our incredible volunteers! To learn more about Barbara Ann or becoming a DMCC 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). ▣*

# WHY WEIGHT

## One Person, One Vote

by Henry Abarbanel | Crest Road

A core principle of democratic representation has long been this: “one person, one vote.”

While this is not universally honored, even in the United States (consider that California, with 39,959,247 people, has 2 U.S. Senators, while Wyoming, with 581,813 people, also has 2 U.S. Senators), it is a goal of living in a democracy to honor each individual citizen with respect.

On January 13, 2023, at a meeting of our regional government body, the San Diego Association of Governments, or “SANDAG,” the City of Del Mar’s representative, Ms. Gaasterland, joined eight other San Diego regional cities in arguing that regardless of the population of any city (or the Unincorporated County) in the region, each of these jurisdictions should have one vote.

It seemed to me useful to collect the facts on this issue.

According to the U.S. Census Bureau, as of July 1, 2021 (the 2020 Census), the population figures in the SANDAG region were as follows:

Source: U.S. Census Bureau 2021 numbers based on the 2020 Census	
Carlsbad 115,073	Chula Vista 276,466
• Coronado 20,015	• Del Mar 3,953
• El Cajon 106,176	Encinitas 62,037
• Escondido 151,260	Imperial Beach 26,168
La Mesa 61,111	Lemon Grove 27,620
National City 56,149	• Oceanside 174,128
• Poway 48,835	San Diego 1,385,394
• San Marcos 94,973	• Santee 60,057
Solana Beach 12,957	• Vista 98,508
Unincorporated County of San Diego 516,372	

The aggregate population of the bulleted cities above = 757,905, or 23% of the total regional population, which is 3,326,073.

The other cities and Unincorporated SD County = 2,539,347, or 77% of the total regional population.

The bulleted cities are the ones that walked out of the

SANDAG meeting in a huff, objecting to the California State law that requires a weighted vote based on population.

In her recent e-blast sent through the “Knowledge for the Vote” platform of Mr. Hershell Price, Ms. Gaasterland attempted to defend her actions, but in fact she “cooked the books” by saying that the bulleted cities represented 43% of the population of the SANDAG region. They do not, as the Census facts above confirm.

Del Mar, as you can see, is by far the smallest city in our region, having just 0.12% of the population of 3,326,073. We have always been the smallest city in the San Diego region.

Ms. Gaasterland’s pitch at the SANDAG meeting was, in effect, that 0.12% of the people in the San Diego region should have as many votes as, say, the City of San Diego, which has 42% of the region’s population. Ms. Gaasterland’s position is indefensible on grounds of any respect for democracy.

It is easy to criticize thoughtless positions taken by elected officials, but it is useful to suggest constructive solutions to regional problems concerning Del Mar’s interests.

Here’s one: Our representatives to all regional bodies, SANDAG among them, should work closely with the more populous cities in our region to form partnerships and coalitions that will support our needs as a city, no matter how small we may be.

This is hardly a new idea. Del Mar’s past representatives to regional bodies have done this with great success for decades. Indeed, Del Mar Councilmembers have been elected to the position of Chair of SANDAG, a position Ms. Gaasterland desired but which was denied to her because of her behavior and inability to collaborate.

Politics is the art of the possible, and that requires cooperation and partnership among parties large and small. Ms. Gaasterland’s grandstanding is neither grand nor helping Del Mar achieve good standing and respect in the San Diego region.

I spoke to the Mayor of another small city in our region who was present at the January 13th SANDAG meeting, and was told that Ms. Gaasterland was “making Del Mar look like a bunch of elitist fools.” This small city Mayor has worked within SANDAG for many years and accomplished many benefits for that city.

We can, we should, we must do much better in our dealings with our region, and not allow grandstanding politicians with their own agendas to make our small city appear populated with “elitist fools.”

There are many critical regional issues that impact Del Mar, and we need a respected representative at SANDAG who can build bridges, not knock them down to gain a little publicity. □



# SANDBAGGING SANDAG

by Bud Emerson | Klish Way and Don Mosier | Rimini Road

On Friday January 13th, an orchestrated walkout at SANDAG by Del Mar’s representative, Councilmember Terry Gaasterland, and a group of Republican board members, put Del Mar on the losing side of SANDAG’s leadership elections. It also put Del Mar in conflict with neighboring North County coastal cities Solana Beach, Encinitas, and Carlsbad, in marked contrast to the decades of cooperation between these cities on key issues coming before the SANDAG Board.

At the SANDAG (San Diego County Association of Governments) meeting on that Friday, it soon became clear that Gaasterland had caucused with Republican representatives to put forward Gaasterland and Republican Poway Mayor Steve Vaus for Chair and Vice Chair positions, using substitute motions to highlight opposition to proportional (weighted) voting at SANDAG, as provided for by State law, and to signal opposition to key elements of SANDAG’s Regional Transportation Plan that support climate goals.

After Nora Vargas, Chair of the County Board of Supervisors, was nominated as SANDAG Chair, a substitute motion nominated Gaasterland, who then presented a rambling narrative that departed from her (and the majority of the Del Mar City Council’s) support for the SANDAG Regional Transportation Plan (RTP). Instead, she supported widening freeways and focusing on single car trips in stark contrast to the adopted RTP. She also proposed abolishing the weighted vote enshrined in state law and returning to the tally vote where Del Mar gets 1 vote for 4000 residents and the City of San Diego gets 2 votes for 1.3 million residents.

After Gaasterland failed to win election as Chair, Vargas was elected Chair and Sean Elo-Rivera, Council President for the City of San Diego, was elected Vice Chair by weighted votes as called for in the SANDAG by-laws, a substitute motion by the dissenting group to elect Vaus as Vice Chair having failed.

Solana Beach Mayor Lesa Heebner was then nominated for 2nd Vice Chair. Though the dissenting group had articulated diversity and small-town representation as rationales for their actions, it made a substitute motion to elect Gaasterland instead of her neighboring small city representative. The initial vote took place as a “tally vote” – each SANDAG Board member getting one vote, regardless of the proportion of the total population represented.

Gaasterland won the tally vote by one vote, but a weighted vote was called for, which State law provides can be requested by any two representatives. Before that vote was taken, Gaasterland joined eight Republican representatives

(Terry became a registered Democrat in Aug. 2022) in walking out of the meeting, leaving a minimum quorum of 10 board members present. The substitute motion for Gaasterland was then defeated in the weighted vote, and Heebner, the person with the most years of service on the SANDAG board, was elected Second Vice-Chair by a unanimous (10-0) vote.

Because Gaasterland had walked out, Del Mar was marked “absent” when our neighboring city’s Mayor was elected to a SANDAG leadership position. Our coastal neighbors Encinitas and Carlsbad joined Solana Beach’s representative in garnering this leadership position for a woman from a small north coastal city, as did our Supervisor, Terra Lawson-Remer, but Del Mar was missing in action for this achievement.

Gaasterland serves as Del Mar’s representative to SANDAG, and it is her duty to uphold positions adopted by the City Council, which had previously expressed majority support for the RTP, which Gaasterland then voted for at SANDAG. Her taking opposing positions in her remarks is an affront to the Council, which might wish to reconsider her position as SANDAG representative.

More importantly, by siding against neighboring coastal cities, the spirit of cooperation among our coastal allies has been tarnished by one person’s ambitions.

When the Del Mar City Council discussed the SANDAG walkout at their January 23rd meeting, Gaasterland’s actions were criticized by Council Members Druker and Worden. Dave Druker said, “we can’t spend our political capital” on matters not related to our top priorities, and we can’t afford to alienate “our Democratic elected officials” whose help we need to fund those priorities, which are “get the trains off the bluffs, get affordable housing on the fairgrounds, and protect our citizens against sea-level rise. ▣



On Jan. 28 SANDAG set up a booth at the Del Mar Farmers Market to display seven conceptual options for pedestrian rail track crossings along the Del Mar bluffs and to solicit feedback from the public. The options include a combination of trails, crossings, ramps, and stairs to the beach. More on page 9.

Photo by Julie Maxey-Allison

# MAC'S DEL MAR

by Julie Maxey Allison | 10th Street and Virginia Lawrence | Caminito del Rocio

**R**obert "Mac" McMillan passed away on December 28, 2022. A distinguished Scripps Clinic researcher and clinician, he was also a charming and able painter who deftly captured the essence of Del Mar scenes, the beach, the parks, the atmosphere and generously shared his work. □



*Del Mar Lifeguard Station.*



*Bully's.*



*Farmers Market.*



*Carlos and Annie's.*



*Del Mar Library.*



*Del Mar Fine Wines.*



*Del Mar Train Station.*



*Powerhouse.*



## A LITTLE NIGHT MUSIC

by Julie Maxey-Allison | 10th Street

**A**lmost every evening live music is available out and about in Del Mar. It is in the air most days from sun sets into later hours. Some are in restaurants, some out of doors. At one spot you sing along and another invites you to be the performer.

Live music venues to look in on and listen to:

**Mondays** are the off times.

**Tuesdays**, check out and join in Karaoke at **Jimmy O's**, 225 15 Street, 9:00 PM-1:00 AM.

**Wednesdays** are "Acoustic" at **En Fuego**, 1342 Camino Del Mar, 6:30-9:30 PM.

**Thursdays-Sundays** try **Monarch Pub**, 1555 Camino Del Mar, offering music out on the deck, 4:00-7:00 PM and/or **L'Auberge** where music is in the lobby, 5:00-9:00 PM.

**Thursdays and Saturdays** **Del Mar Plaza**, 1555 Camino Del Mar presents Seaside Sessions, 5:00-7:00 PM.

**Fridays** **Cervasco's**, 1201 Camino Del Mar, features live players 6:00-9:00 PM.

**Fridays and Saturdays** **Zel's Del Mar**, 1247 Camino Del Mar, hosts live performances 7:00-10:00 PM and

**Sundays** **Zel's Del Mar** is Open Mike show time 5:00-8:00 PM. □



# TAKING THE REINS

by Tracy Martinez, Del Mar Mayor | David Way

I am pleased to be serving as the Mayor of Del Mar in 2023. While there are numerous issues impacting our community, the three most pressing that we must address this year are the state-mandated affordable housing requirements; moving forward to a final plan for moving the train tracks off our fragile southern bluffs; and continuing the undergrounding of utility lines.

My first goal is to obtain an agreement with the Del Mar Fairgrounds by October 2023 to build at least 54 units of affordable housing on the fairground property rather than being forced to rezone our North Bluff or South Bluff. The City has completed financial and architectural feasibility studies and now we need help from the fairground housing liaisons, Don Mosier and Kathlyn Mead, to make this happen.

We completed our 6th Regional Housing Cycle and have been waiting for over 18 months for HCD to certify it. The state-mandated Regional Housing Needs Assessment (RHNA), overseen by SANDAG, required Del Mar to provide 113 affordable housing units and another 50 market rate units based on their calculations that there are 4,440 employees working in our city. While we believe this employment number is inflated, there is no effective recourse. Consequently, state mandates have created an enormous burden for our city and has put our community character at risk, including the possibility of eliminating protected views and potentially forcing development on the fragile and limited open space available in Del Mar.

We are taking action to respond to Sacramento's overreaching housing laws which continue to pass at a rapid pace. Council member Gaasterland and I brought to council a proposal to join a multi-city lawsuit against SB-9, a law that now allows any R-1 lot to be split and allow two homes and two accessory dwelling units (ADUs or "granny flats") on it without mandating them to be affordable even though the law was designed to create affordable housing. The Del Mar City Council voted unanimously to join the suit.

We are hoping to fight the state's total disregard for local city regulations and the lack of recognition of the impact Sacramento's decisions are having on our infrastructure and environment. We are already seeing ADUs being built that block views and encroach on residents' privacy. A new law will allow an increase in height from 16 feet to 25 feet for attached accessory dwelling units. The impact to our city could be significant.

My second goal is to continue the work to move the train tracks off our fragile bluff and to forge a route for the train that does not unduly damage our city and residents. At present, the governmental entities (SANDAG and NCTD) are working on rerouting the train tracks zeroing in on a route that tunnels under Del Mar and they are ignoring other alternatives that are less disruptive. The frustration →

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## In Brief

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### Rates Up ↑

The Clean Energy Authority (CEA) Board voted to authorize a rate increase for electricity generation at their January 26th meeting. The increased cost of natural gas and the heat wave in September led to a significant increase in the cost of electricity for every provider, but the CEA rate increase was much lower than the generation cost levied by San Diego Gas and Electric (SDG&E). As a result, Del Mar customers with CEA will pay over \$20 a month less than those who remain with SDG&E. SDG&E has also raised their distribution costs, which now account for 71% of your monthly bill.

### Crossing the Tracks

As part of the mitigation required by the California Coastal Commission for SANDAG's Bluff Stabilization (DMB 5) project, SANDAG is vetting seven design concepts for a pedestrian crossing across the tracks on the Del Mar bluffs, including options for how the crossing would connect to the beach. An Open House at Town Hall on Dec. 7 produced a lively discussion of the design options (see the Sandpiper's report here: [bit.ly/SANDAG-Town-Hall](http://bit.ly/SANDAG-Town-Hall)). On Jan. 28, two days before the deadline for public comment, SANDAG held a community outreach at the Del Mar Farmers Market, with SANDAG team members collecting comments and answering questions. The next steps for SANDAG will be a review of public feedback, and development of the concept they will present to the California Public Utilities Commission, which must approve any pedestrian crossing of railroad tracks. An alternative proposal for a pilot project that would use a gate that locks when trains pass by, obviating the need for horns and flashing lights, has been submitted by Council member Dwight Worden and resident Al Tarkington; that proposal can be read here: <http://bit.ly/Worden-Tarkington>. □

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I have with SANDAG's approach is they've done this with virtually no community input. When I hear "the Del Mar tunnel," I get concerned about the impact to homes including noise, structures, and potential imminent domain, which I would never support. We must have community input and residential impacts must be taken into consideration before a final decision is made.

My third goal is to continue the undergrounding of utility lines. I believe the decision by city council to start with the smaller project, Tewa, was the right one because it was a great test that yielded many important lessons that will be beneficial as we move forward.

From where I sit, these are the main issues for our city for 2023, but as always, we remain open to resident input on other concerns and prepared to deal together with whatever comes our way. □

## LOVING DEL MAR

by Valérie Dufort-Roy | Klish Way

The marine layer lingering 'till noon. The Torrey pine-scented sea breeze enveloping the hill. Aren't we lucky to live in Del Mar?

About four thousand live in our village and welcome over two million visitors annually. Old homes, new homes, and hotels eclectically join to form the ensemble we call Del Mar. From the well-protected native Torrey pines to the lunar-looking sandstone hills and the ocean; without this spectacular natural beauty, Del Mar would be just another city.

But then how long can this beauty still be taken for granted? The defining features of our town are its two beaches, the two river estuaries, and the Pacific Ocean. They are all under threat. The United Nations Environmental Programme (2021; [bit.ly/UN-Env-Programme](https://bit.ly/UN-Env-Programme)) estimates that without necessary intervention, the amount of new plastic pollution entering aquatic ecosystems is expected to reach 23 to 37 million tons per year, by 2040, adding to its current estimated total weight of 75 to 199 million tons. The impact is widespread. Aside from causing the direct death of sea animals who get tangled, starve or die from eating plastic trash, plastic pollution also diminishes the natural capabilities of carbon cycling, by entering the tissues of marine organisms and contaminating the food chain, where humans end up ingesting polluted foods and suffer associated illnesses (Landrigan et al., 2020: [bit.ly/agh-landrigan](https://bit.ly/agh-landrigan)).

Preserving the uniqueness of our bountiful environment, and equally our health, is a priority for many of us. In 2022, 66 volunteers picked up 211 pounds of trash at Powerhouse Beach Park and Dog Beach, during 24 recorded beach cleanups with the Surfrider Foundation. Del Mar Village Association organized a beach cleanup and a downtown cleanup, the latter helped remove 178 pounds of trash that would have ended up in our oceans.

Del Mar counts many sustainability heroes, volunteers who protect the environment by working on ordinances and building electrification, as an example, who plant trees and feed butterflies, and who make sure that the splendid gift of nature will be enjoyed by many more to come. Discussing sustainability, defined as maintaining a harmonious human-nature co-existence to support today's and tomorrow's generations, the Environmental Protection Agency declares that "everything we need for our survival and well-being depends, either directly or indirectly, on our natural environment." Resources are plentiful around us, giving us the option to get involved. San Diego Gleaners, FreeCycle, Del Mar Go Green website, Climate Action Campaign, and Feeding San Diego are just a few to look into.

*Ed note: Full references are available online.* ■

## CRUSH YOUR CARBON FOOTPRINT

by Dolores Davies Jamison | Crest Road

Member of the Clean Energy Alliance Community Advisory Committee

If you would like to significantly reduce your carbon footprint, you've got several options to consider, including adopting a vegan diet, going car-free (or buying an electric car), or avoiding long flights. Or, if you—like most Del Mar residents—are a Clean Energy Alliance customer, you've got a much easier and cheaper option. You can opt up for 100% renewable energy for less than \$3 a month. Combine that with any of the other options and your impact will be even greater.

When the Clean Energy Alliance (CEA) began providing electricity to Del Mar residents in May 2021, most customers began purchasing the default electricity offering of 50% renewable/75% carbon-free (mainly hydroelectric) electricity. However, many residents may not have realized that they could easily opt up to the "Green Impact" level, where they would use 100% renewable energy for their electricity, at an additional cost of only \$2 to \$3 a month.

This is true for even those customers who decided to "opt out" and continued buying electricity from San Diego Gas & Electric (SDG&E). Once a customer has been back with SDG&E for 12 months, they become eligible to enroll with CEA. They can make that election by contacting CEA's call center at 833-232-3110. Per SDG&E rules, SDG&E requests 6-months notice of their intent to return to CEA. However, customers can request that SDG&E consider allowing them to return immediately. SDG&E customers should note that the utility no longer offers its "Clean Impact" program so CEA provides the only option for 100% clean energy.

CEA's planned expansion and growing customer base should enable CEA to continue providing cleaner energy at lower rates than SDG&E. This April, CEA will begin serving customers in San Marcos and Escondido, increasing the number of accounts from 66,000 to 160,000.

CEA's members—Del Mar, Solana Beach, Carlsbad, Oceanside, and soon Escondido, and San Marcos—are able to pool their communities' demands and increase their purchasing power for higher renewable energy content. Excess revenue will be reinvested in Del Mar and the other North County communities through on-bill savings, innovative energy projects, and low-cost energy programs—including rebates and incentives. ■



# GO NATIVE!

by Ed Mirsky | 9th Street

Del Mar is getting dryer. Our winter storms of late bring the promise of substantial rain, only to make a left turn near LA, leaving us dry and thirsty. In 2022 we received less than seven inches rather than the old “normal” of 10 inches. With less water, with the exception of the occasional significant rainy season, just passed, we need plants in our gardens that will be able to survive with little or no supplementary water all year, especially in summer. Our native plants, doing well on their own in Crest Canyon and the San Dieguito River Valley, can provide the solution.



Native plants thriving on Crest Road. Photo by Ed Mirsky.

Building a native plant garden (while removing invasive species) will help sustain our local biodiversity by attracting birds, butterflies and other wildlife as well as conserving water. As Douglas W. Tallamy explains, planting native plants in our gardens helps to expand, protect, and sustain our native ecosystems by adding good, beneficial insects, moths and butterflies that form a link to adjacent plant and animal communities of the San Dieguito Lagoon, San Elijo Lagoon to the North, and Penasquitos Lagoon to the South.

You can grow your own “homegrown national park” as Tallamy calls it. You can start a new community of plants, birds, insect pollinators, and the little things in the soil that join together into a self-sustaining ecosystem. If we don’t protect these ecosystem we will no longer hear birds sing or see butterflies flutter by.

As Chief Seattle, chief of the Duwamish and Suquamish tribes, states it: “The earth does not belong to man, man belongs to the earth. All things are connected. Man did not weave the web of life, he is merely a strand in it. Whatever he does to the web, he does to himself.” →

# Dogs of Del Mar

## TEDDY KENNEDY

by Hylton Lonstein | Bernwood Place

Interview with Jim Kennedy | Hoska Drive



Photo by Jim Kennedy, Teddy’s person.

### How did you choose your dog’s name?

Cyndy and I tried lots of names, but “Teddy” was perhaps inevitable; his father’s name was “Bear,” so “Teddy Bear” made sense. My previous Golden Retriever was “Jack” Kennedy, so “Teddy Kennedy” seemed even more right.

### What is Teddy’s favorite thing to do in Del Mar?

Teddy barks for joy at the park. He loves: getting people to rub his belly, greeting babies in

their carriages, and (for medical reasons), the completely forbidden odd snack, if he can manage it.

### Tell us a fun story about your dog.

During an off-leash morning at the park, Dan Smiley walked past with a delicious warm scone. Teddy unexpectedly launched himself in front of Dan, and while flying by, Teddy swiveled his head and removed the scone without touching Dan’s fingers. One second Dan was holding a warm scone, and in the next his fingers held nothing. Fortunately, Dan found it all very amusing. □

### Our native plants to consider:

- Coast Live Oaks: a good tree to support California wildlife. Also Del Mar Manzanita, Eastwood Manzanita, Bushrue, Climbing Penstemon, Yellow Bush Penstemon, Southern Honeysuckle, San Diego Sunflower. Smaller plants: Bush Monkey Flower, Bladderpod, California Four O’clock, Beach Primrose.
- For Monarch butterflies: Narrow Leaf Milkweed
- For hummingbirds: California Fuchsia
- For bluff stabilization: White Coastal Ceanothus, Woollyleaf Ceanothus, and Chamise.
- For a hedge: Lemonadeberry



# VISIT THE SANDPIPER ONLINE!

# SANDPIPER

Del Mar Sandpiper  
1155 Camino Del Mar #436, Del Mar, CA 92014  
DATED MATERIAL



[www.delmarsandpiper.org](http://www.delmarsandpiper.org)

## DEVASTATING DOWNPOURS

by Julie Maxey-Allison | 10th Street



*No sand! Photo by Jill Weitzen MacDonald.*



*Vanishing sand leaves sharp, dangerous drop off.  
Photo by Julie Maxey-Allison,*

*Above: Winter storms surged to shear off the already falling bluffs and rocks in Del Mar. Photos by Julie Maxey-Allison,*

**Ed note:** On January 20, 2023 at 1:29 pm, just 5 miles south of Torrey Pines Beach, a major collapse tumbled down onto Black Beach just next to the Glider Port. □