



Corona del Mar RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION

Spring 2022 Edition

Corona del Mar Residents Association presents

THE CORONA DEL MAR ANNUAL TOWN MEETING Wednesday, April 27, 2022

*Sherman Library & Gardens, 2647 East Coast Hwy, Corona del Mar
(Please use Rear Entrance off Parking Lot)*

5:00 pm-6:00 pm: Hosted Refreshments & Community Social/Expo
6:00 pm-7:30 pm: Speakers Program & Opportunity Drawings



2022 Annual Town Meeting – Citizen Involvement Matters

By Debbie Stevens, President of CdMRA

It's an honor to represent the Corona del Mar Residents Association (CdMRA) in 2022 which is also our 35th Anniversary!

After being on hiatus for two years, the Corona del Mar Residents Association (CdMRA) is planning the return of its Annual Town Meeting which will be held on Wednesday, April 27, 2022 beginning at 5 pm at Sherman Library & Gardens (2647 East Coast Highway, Corona del Mar). Our annual town meeting is open to all Corona del Mar residents and businesses.

Join us at 5:00 p.m. for our popular Community Expo that will include representatives from a number of city departments, city commissions and community organizations. This is your opportunity to meet with city and community representatives and leaders to discuss issues and concerns, or simply to meet them one-on-one. City departments invited include Library Services, Community Development, Newport Beach Police, Newport Beach Fire, Public Works, Recreation and Senior Services and more. Invited City Commissions and community organizations include the Cultural Arts Commission, Community Emergency Response Team (CERT), Library Foundation, Library Adult Literacy Program, CdM Chamber of Commerce, Newport Beach Film Festival and SPON - Still Protecting Our Newport.

Our speakers program will follow the Expo from 6:00 pm to 7:30 pm. Councilmember Joy Brenner will talk about the State of District 6 followed by a presentation of Ballot Measure B which asks voters to decide whether we should elect our mayors. Measure B author and proponent Councilmember and former Mayor Will O'Neill will share with us the rationale for proposing this change. Long-time Newport Beach resident Walter Stahr, author and son of John and Elizabeth Stahr, will share the rationale for maintaining the traditional mayoral appointment process. Attendees will have an opportunity to submit their questions in writing before the presentation. Questions will be addressed as the conclusion of speaker comments. This is a timely topic since Measure B appears on our June 7 Primary Ballot. Refreshments from Gallo's Deli will be provided, and opportunity drawings will be held for gifts from the Newport Beach Film Festival and Corona del Mar businesses. With the beautiful backdrop of Sherman Gardens and the timely community topics, we know that our Annual Town Meeting will be full of information for all CdM residents. Please visit our website Cdmra.org or follow us on Facebook (@cdmra) as well as Instagram and Twitter (@cdmra92625) for additional information. We look forward to seeing you on April 27, 2022 and please bring your neighbors!

VOLUNTEERS ADVOCATING FOR CORONA DEL MAR RESIDENTIAL QUALITY OF LIFE SINCE 1987

*By Paul Bartlau & Irene Villalobos,
Membership Committee Co-Chairs*



Welcome! We invite you to become a member of the Corona del Mar Residents Association which is for all who call 92625 their home. We hold monthly topical meetings on the third Thursday morning of most months at the OASIS Senior Center. Corona del Mar's three council members, Joy Brenner, Will O'Neill and Noah Blom, frequently attend, as do city staff. We also invite monthly guest speakers to present important and topical information. This is a great opportunity for the voices of all 92625 residents "TO HEAR AND TO BE HEARD".

Corona del Mar Residents Association (CdMRA) is a nonprofit residents' advocacy group, which was founded in 1987 to provide a unified voice on issues which impact over 6,500 residents in neighborhoods located in zip code 92625. We work diligently to protect, preserve and improve our Community's quality of life. We identify local problems and work to obtain solutions by developing community consensus through member outreach and surveys. That consensus is then presented to our local government leaders as a request for new legislation or administrative actions that would benefit specific neighborhoods or all of Corona del Mar.

We look forward to welcoming you as a new or renewing member. Our annual calendar-year membership is \$25.

Please take a moment to join or renew at Cdmra.org or use your smartphone's camera to scan the QR Code below. It's that easy!



ANNUAL TOWN MEETING GUEST SPEAKERS ADDRESS NEWPORT BEACH BALLOT MEASURE B

CdMRA's Mission Statement requires that we provide information and access to city leaders on issues that impact all 92625 residents and the city at large. On June 7, we will be asked to vote on a ballot measure to change the current mayoral appointment process to one where voters elect the mayor. As with all ballot measures, we have proponents and opponents. Our Annual Town Meeting provide us with a great opportunity to learn about this change to our local government.

We recognize that not everyone will be able to attend our April 27 Town Meeting at Sherman Library & Gardens, so we are publishing the comments of one proponent and one opponent below. If you are able to attend our meeting, our speakers will be Measure B author and proponent Councilmember and former Mayor Will O'Neill. Walter Stahr, a long-time Newport Beach resident, author and member of the John and Elizabeth Stahr family, will share his concerns about Measure B. The audience will be asked to submit their questions in writing at the meeting and we will address questions during the allotted time.

Please take a moment to review the information below from the City's website, and the articles about Measure B on page 3. Doing so is an important step in exercising our right to vote on June 7.

BALLOT MEASURE B AMENDMENT OF NEWPORT BEACH CITY CHARTER TO PROVIDE FOR THE DIRECT ELECTION OF THE MAYOR BY THE VOTERS

Shall Article IV, City Council, and Article X, Elections, of the Newport Beach City Charter be amended to provide for the direct election of the Mayor, who would be nominated by residents and registered voters of the City of Newport Beach and elected by the voters of the City at-large?
<https://newportbeachca.gov/city-government>

For: Hon. Will O'Neill, Newport Beach City Council Member (Mayor 2020) & Hon. Noah Blom, Newport Beach Mayor Pro Tem
www.ElectOurMayor.com

Against: Nancy Gardner, former Mayor, Newport Beach, Homer L. Bludau, former Newport Beach City Manager, Evelyn R. Hart, former Mayor, Newport Beach, Clarence J. Turner, former Mayor, Newport Beach, Seymour Beek, former Harbor Commissioner, Brad Avery, Council Member, former Mayor Newport Beach, and Joy Brenner, Council Member
<http://NoElectedMayor.com/>

PLEASE VOTE YES ON MEASURE B

*By Hon. Will O'Neill,
Newport Beach City Council and former Mayor*

Should you choose who your Mayor is? Or should someone else choose for you?

A candidate for Mayor should have to talk to you, the voters, about their priorities for our city. And you should get to vote for the candidate of your choosing.

You currently don't have this choice. Instead, council members gather in a room once a year and pick from amongst themselves who will be Mayor. Even though Newport Beach has over 60,000 voters, the Mayor is selected by only seven people.

That power is better in your hands, not politicians'. And for the first time, you get to decide whether you want the Mayor to be directly accountable to you or only to six other elected officials.

In early May, you will receive your ballots for the June 7 election. If you believe that you should choose who your Mayor is, then vote yes on the Elect Our Mayor initiative. It's that simple.

As you will see in CdMRA's newsletter, opposition exists to this straightforward proposal. Opponents have in created a political action committee called "No Elected Mayor."

Should we have no elected Mayor? Or should voters choose their Mayor? The dividing line is clear and you get to decide whether you should choose your Mayor.

In a recent email, the No Elected Mayor campaign claimed that directly electing your Mayor is "undemocratic." In another email, the No Elected Mayor campaign said that a reason not to elect a Mayor is that it might have elected a Republican in Huntington Beach if such a system existed there. It should remain obvious that resorting to another city's partisan composition is irrelevant to whether Newport Beach voters have direct vote for their Mayor.

Opponents also discuss a "power shift." But a shift from whom to whom? The power to choose the Mayor would shift from the city council to you, the voters. That's a good thing! The power to set a policy agenda would shift from the unelected City Manager to the directly accountable Mayor, which is also positive.

No matter how good a City Manager is – and ours is excellent – City Managers are not directly accountable to voters. This initiative would ensure that the people directly accountable to you – the Mayor and City Council – set the policy agenda. So when opponents say that a proposed Mayor would be "too powerful," just remember that they prefer power be placed farther away from you.

And as opposed to our current system that allows city council members to serve two terms, sit out, and run again and again, the Elect Our Mayor initiative would create a two-term life-time term limit for the elected Mayor.

After everything that we have seen over the past few years, should we really maintain and promote a system where you have less direct say? Of course not.

A candidate for Mayor should be talking to all of us about their priorities, stand for a city-wide vote, and be accountable to all of us.

We the voters should choose our Mayor. Vote yes on Measure B.

PLEASE VOTE NO ON MEASURE B

By Nancy Gardner, former Newport Beach Mayor

On June 7, we will vote on a measure that proposes to change our method of city government. If passed it will give one person, an elected mayor, unprecedented control of the city--the power to decide what the council will discuss and the power to direct staff. If that seems benign, imagine someone at the opposite end of the political spectrum from you or with a completely different vision for the city, and imagine this person with eight years and the power to enact his or her agenda.

The reason given for this proposed change is that without a powerful elected mayor the city somehow lacks influence in the wider world. By making this change we supposedly would increase our clout. In truth, the only clout it would increase would be that of the mayor.

Under our current system, with seven council members of equal weight, each is available to represent the city under various circumstances that often match a particular expertise. As an example, when I was on council, if there was an environmental issue, because of my background, I was the city's representative. If it was public finance, we looked to Keith Curry with his many years of experience.

With our current system, we have seven ambassadors, each bringing specific experience. If we change to an all-powerful mayor, there will be only one representative, a person who will have to be constantly educated on any variety of issues outside his or her area of expertise. This will not bring the best results either in terms of time or efficacy. As for the supposed ineffectiveness of our current system when dealing with outside entities, I can say from personal experience that is not the case. Whether as a council person or as mayor, I was never in a single situation with outside entities where I felt at a disadvantage because I wasn't the big elected boss.

Another problem with this proposal is that if one person essentially controls the city, there is going to be a huge interest in controlling, or at least having a lot of influence with, that person --an invitation for more money and more politics and more outside interests to have their say which would result in less responsiveness to residents and more to those who have financed the candidate.

This also, in essence, does away with term limits, at least for one person who could serve eight years on council and then another eight as mayor. As a former council member I am a firm supporter of term limits. The longer a person is in power the greater the temptation to feel that you know best, no matter what your constituents think.

This change in the balance of power would reduce the role of the city manager who, by the time he or she reaches such a position, has years of experience in city administration. Under this proposal the mayor, who may have no experience in this area, would be giving the directions. This situation, according to city managers to whom I have spoken, would greatly reduce the attractiveness of what is now a star position, lessening our ability to attract top talent.

We have done very well under our current system--one created, coincidentally, by frustration with what was essentially a one-man rule--and there is no rational reason for changing it, particularly when there has been no public demand for such a change. This is a solution looking for a problem, so remember the old saw: If it ain't broke, don't fix it. Newport is definitely not broke. Let's keep what's working. Vote no on Measure B.

BE WELL COMES TO NEWPORT BEACH

*By Natalie Basmacıyan, MLS
Newport Beach Homeless Coordinator*



The [Be Well OC](#) Mobile Crisis Response Team is working closely with City's public safety departments to address mental health challenges among the City's homeless population, as well as residents and visitors who may be experiencing a mental health crisis.

While Be Well OC works with several other Orange County cities on similar programs, it is a new partnership for Newport Beach.

Under the Be Well OC program, Newport Beach now has a dedicated two-person team of experienced crisis counselors and EMTs working 12 hours a day, 7 days a week. The team responds to mental health calls for service to the Police Department's non-emergency or 911 call lines.

Patients may be transported to Be Well OC's local crisis center, or a detox facility or shelter, as needed. The service provides direct mental health intervention and will reduce the need for police and emergency medical services in these cases.

The program's first-year cost, about \$1.2 million, is being offset by an anonymous donation from a Newport Beach resident of \$132,000 for the mobile van and start-up costs. Federal grants will be used to fund about \$717,000, and the remaining \$376,000 will come from funding currently allocated for homeless shelter operations. City staff is pursuing grants, additional donations, and other cost-sharing opportunities to offset future costs.

The Be Well OC program supplements and augments the City's current efforts to address homelessness, which include a shelter partnership with the City of Costa Mesa, and a pilot program that is providing volunteer opportunities for individuals experiencing homelessness to learn and/or rebuild job skills and a path toward stable employment and housing.

For more information, please visit <https://bewelloc.org/>



THANK YOU!

CdMRA Board Member **Ron Yeo** is always in the right spot at the right time!

It just can't be much prettier than this.

CDMRA'S HISTORICAL RESOURCES COMMITTEE

*By Ron Yeo
CdMRA Board Member & Committee Chair*



CdMRA's Historical Resources Committee has been quite active and successful the last 26 months.

All are welcome to attend our monthly meetings on the 3rd Tuesday at the Sherman Library.

Accomplishments - Cottages

- Documented and photographed over 500 cottages which are posted for the public's enjoyment on the Sherman Gardens & Library website at <https://bit.ly/3x5kXRn>. Or use your smartphone camera and scan the QR Code at the bottom of this article.
- Held a contest for the best 100 cottages and posted those results on the CdM Historical Society website at <https://www.cdmhistorical.org/> or scan the QR Code below.
- Interviewed residents to collect history and early stories of these lovely homes. Posted on the Sherman Library website.

Current Projects

- Developing self-guided walking tours that will be accessible with a smartphone app.
- Creating a "Celebrate Corona del Mar History" exhibit at the Sherman Library
- Documenting and sharing CdM's various historic resources at venues such as OASIS and CdMRA's Annual Town Meeting.

Sherman Library Cottages



CdM Historical Society Cottages



AND THEN AGAIN ...

CdMRA Board Member **Ron Yeo** assures us this rainbow terminates at Goldenrod Bridge!

We think Ron deserves that pot of gold for his amazing photos of CdM.



WITH GRATITUDE & THANKS

By Karen Tringali, former CdMRA President

All good things must come to an end, and we recently learned that two of Newport Beach Department heads are retiring in 2022 after many years of exemplary service.



Tim Hetherton, Library Services Director, has been an advocate for Corona del Mar from the first day he was hired to fill that position.

Our beloved CdM Branch Library was slated to close at the time Tim was hired. CdM residents didn't lose a minute and invited Tim to standing-room only public meetings at the CdM Branch Library.

Our community was passionate about our branch library, and shared heartfelt stories about parents and grandparents walking to the library with their children for story time, crafts and quiet reading. Tim listened and took our community's concerns to heart.

Tim successfully championed for maintaining our branch library. As a result, we celebrated with gusto its 50th Anniversary and in the following years formed Friends of CdM Library to facilitate a public/private partnership which resulted in the newly combined CdM Branch Library and CdM Fire Station.

Nearly six generations of CdM residents owe Tim Hetherton a great deal of thanks, and his mark on our community will last for generations to come. We wish Tim all the best in his next chapter.



Laura Detweiler, Recreation & Senior Services Director, is champion of all that is fun in Newport Beach!

Under her leadership, programs and activities have flourished for residents of all ages, from our youngest residents to those of us old enough to enjoy all that OASIS Senior Center has to offer.

You never see Laura in the community without a smile on her face and a warm handshake for all. Her energy and spirit for fun is infectious, as evidenced by the popularity of the many events, programs and activities for which her department is responsible.

That energy saw us through many months of COVID lockdown as she and her team came up with new and creative ways to engage our community in a safe, virtual environment. She's an advocate for citizen involvement, and is among the first to reach out and say thank you to those who go out of their way to make our city this special place that it is. If you've attended any of our CdM Annual Town Meetings, you'll see Laura and her team there with one of the most fun exhibits at the Expo.

We truly hope that Laura enjoys her road ahead. She can certainly look back with pride for her legacy of accomplishments and the smiles she brought to all young-at-heart Newport Beach residents.

VEGETATION CLEARING: BUCK GULLY & MORNING CANYON

By NB Fire Marshal Kevin Bass

Editor's Note: While this article appeared in our 2020 Spring Newsletters, we felt it was worth printing again in light of the worst wildfire seasons in California's history during the last two years.

As required by the State, a new annual vegetation inspection program was approved by the city in 2020 for the identified Hazard Reduction Zone areas. The new program was created with input from the community members that attended multiple public outreach meetings at OASIS in 2019.

The updated Guideline G.01 – Hazard Reduction Zones now incorporates requirements for reducing the amount of vegetation adjacent to structures.

The goal of the revised program is to remove combustible materials adjacent to the structure, remove large masses of brushes/shrubs, create areas of separation between the remaining groups of brushes/shrubs, and reduce the amount of vegetation located underneath trees to break the "ladder" effect between ground fires and tree crown fires. We also intend to retain most of the existing trees as a screen to catch flying embers, while protecting the trees from ground-based vegetation fires.

Fire Prevention staff will be available to meet with property owners and their landscape contractors to review their premises and provide direction to achieve the necessary clearances.



Fire Inspector Raymi Wun is leading the Vegetation Management Program; you may contact Raymi at 949-644-3110 or by email at RWun@nbfd.net. The updated Guideline G.01 – Hazard Reduction Zones will be posted on the City's website in the Fire Department page by mid-March 2020 when the code amendment is in effect. Thanks to everyone for your community's efforts to reduce the wildfire threat within these canyons.

VISIT OUR eBRANCH - WE NEVER CLOSE!

By Katherine Mielke, Library Marketing Specialist



Newport Beach Public Library is committed to serving residents of Corona del Mar with valuable resources. Even when the physical library location is closed, the eBranch is open for you. Visit us at NewportBeachLibrary.org/ebranch.

The eBranch offers hundreds of books and audio books that can be downloaded to your home computer, tablet or mobile device, plus streaming video for you to watch anytime, anywhere.

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Over 3,000 popular magazine titles are available for digital browsing using RBdigital, plus Consumer Reports and National Geographic. Language learning, financial and investment information, legal forms and reference materials and a variety of student resources are available through the Library's online databases.



All you need is a library card. For information, go to the Contact Us page at NewportBeachLibrary.org or call (949) 717-3800.

NEIGHBORHOOD CONSTRUCTION SIGNS & NOISE REGULATIONS

Newport Beach Municipal Code 10.28.040 limits construction hours and noise, and requires signage which contains 24-hour contact information for the owner and general contractor.

Sundays and Federal Holidays: no construction activity allowed.

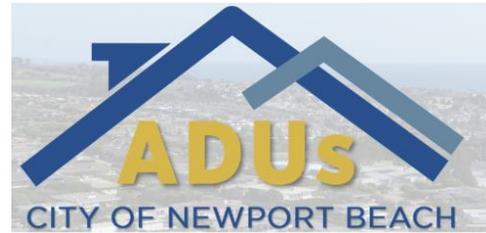
Weekdays: construction allowed 7:00 am - 6:30 pm

Saturdays (CdM HOAs): construction allowed 8:00 am - 6:00 pm

Saturdays (CdM Village): no construction-related noise allowed

Exceptions: Emergency building construction authorized by the Building Director; emergency repair to City facilities; or maintenance, construction, or repair authorized by the City Manager or Department Director.

REDUCING REGULATORY BARRIERS FOR ACCESSORY DWELLING UNITS (ADU)



Reprint of a recent Community Development News Splash

City of Newport Beach Community Development Department [is working on] zoning code changes intended to reduce the regulatory barriers and expand the potential capacity of accessory dwelling units (ADU) beyond minimum State law requirements.

Further encouraging the development ADUs is an important strategy to accommodate future growth in combination with other strategies to meet the State assigned Regional Housing Needs Assessment (RHNA) allocation of 4,845 new units that the City must plan for during the 2021-2029 planning period.

Encouraging ADUs allows for the dispersing of density throughout the City and avoids the need for excessive rezoning and high infrastructure costs associated with new high-density developments. Because ADUs tend to be relatively small with modest amenities, they provide more affordable housing options for select groups, such as students, seniors, caretakers, and people with disabilities.



The City will conducting public outreach workshops to share current ADU standards and request input regarding potential changes such as allowing exterior basement access, removing certain unit size restrictions, and allowing increase height for detached ADUs above garages.

For more information about ADUs, visit the City's dedicated webpage at www.newportbeachca.gov/adu or contact Jaime Murillo, Community Development Department Principal Planner, at 949-644-3209 or jmurillo@newportbeachca.gov.



ARE YOU A NEW MEMBER OR A RENEWING MEMBER

NAME:	
CDM ADDRESS:	
MAILING ADDRESS: (if different than above)	
TELEPHONE:	
E-MAIL ADDRESS:	
COMMENTS:	

\$25 ANNUAL TAX-DEDUCTIBLE MEMBERSHIP DONATION ♦ CDMRA IS A 501(c)(3) PUBLIC CHARITY (ID #83-0928052)
 Save your stamp and pay by credit card at <https://cdmra.org/> or by scanning the QR Code above
 Or mail to CDMRA ♦ PO Box 1500 ♦ Corona del Mar, CA 92625

BOARD MEMBERS

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- SPYGLASS HILL BRENDA MCCROSKEY

If your HOA is not included in the Members at Large list,
 please contact us to find out how to apply.

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- CDMRA EVENTS COMMITTEE SANDIE HASKELL
- CDMRA HISTORICAL COMMITTEE RON YEO

35 YEARS OF LEADERSHIP

CDMRA'S PAST PRESIDENTS

- JAN 1987-DEC 1994 ... DEBRA ALLEN, HARBOR VIEW HILLS
- JAN 1995-DEC 1998 ... PHIL SANSONE, CDM VILLAGE
- JAN 1999-DEC 1999 ... VAL SKORO, IRVINE TERRACE
- JAN 2000-DEC 2001 ... MIKE TOERGE, CDM VILLAGE
- JAN 2002-DEC 2008 ... BEVERLEY "BJ" JOHNSON, CDM VILLAGE
- JAN 2009-DEC 2015 ... KAREN TRINGALI, CAMEO HIGHLANDS
- JAN 2016-DEC 2017 ... LAURA CURRAN, CDM VILLAGE
- JAN 2018-AUG 2018 ... JOY BRENNER, CDM VILLAGE



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THANK YOU TO OUR NEWSLETTER CONTRIBUTORS: CdMRA's Debbie Stevens, Sandie Haskell, Paul Bartlau, Irene Villalobos, Mike & June Lee Pilsitz, Karen Tringali, Ron Yeo; former Newport Beach Mayor Nancy Gardner, Councilmember Will O'Neill, Newport Beach Staff Natalie Basmaciyan, Katherine Mielke, Fire Marshal Kevin Bass and the Community Development Department; Sherman Library & Gardens Paul Wormer.

**GET INVOLVED!
WE HAVE
OPPORTUNITIES
FOR YOU.**

CdMRA works continuously on projects, issues and member communications on behalf of Corona del Mar residents. Would you like to participate? Do you have a skill that you'd like to showcase, such as research, marketing, social media, project management? Do you live in an area where we have an opening on our Board or do you live in an area not represented on our Board? [See Board listing below Membership Form.] If you are interested in becoming involved in the CdMRA organization, please contact us. Be sure to tell us a little about yourself, your background, and how you'd like to help. CdMRA Board meetings are held most months on the 3rd Thursday, 7:30 AM, at OASIS Senior Center in Corona del Mar.

JOIN OR RENEW

Join now to receive important news, updates and survey opportunities for 92625 neighborhoods. Pay online by credit card or set up CdMRA as an annual payee through your online banking system. Of course, we accept regular checks too. And voluntary contributions are most welcome! Applications and Renewal Forms can also be found on our Member page at CdMRA.org.

Please help us keep printing and mailing costs low by providing your current email address. We protect your privacy. Our Privacy Policy is available on our website.

Check your mailing label on this Newsletter for your dues status, or contact us by email or phone.

CONTACTING CDMRA



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TIMELY NEWS & UPDATES



Want access to more timely news about Corona del Mar? Then be sure to sign up for our monthly newsletters.

If you are a member and **not** receiving our monthly email newsletters, then send us an email and ask to be included.

If you're not a member, please join. This is a members-only benefit, so don't wait. Visit Cdmra.org for details.

CDMRA PRIVACY POLICY: We have a strict Privacy Policy, available on our website, which protects our members' contact information from being shared or sold.