



# *Nancy Gardner*

Councilwoman



Newsletter: February 2009

Newport Beach, California

## City Contacts

### City Hall

#### General Information

644-3309

#### Departments

644-

Administrative	3127
Building Dept	3275
City Clerk	3005
City Council	3004
City Manager	3000
Economic Dev	3225
General Services	3055
Graffiti Hotline	3333
Harbor Resources	3034
Licenses	3141
Mayor	3004
Public Info Office	3031
Planning Dept	3200
Public Works	3311
Recreation	3151
Refuse Collection	3066
Senior Services	3151
Streets/Sidewalks	3060
Utilities	3011
Water/Sewer	3050

#### Emergency Services

Emergency	9-1-1
Fire Dept	633-3104
Police Dept	644-3717

#### Libraries

CdM	644-3075
Main	717-3800
Mariners	717-3838
Balboa	644-3076

#### Oasis Senior Center

644-3244

#### Post Office

CdM	673-2989
Main	640-4663

## COUNCILWOMAN

*Nancy Gardner*

City of Newport Beach  
3300 Newport Blvd  
Newport Beach, CA  
92663

#### PHONE

949.644.3004

#### WEBSITE

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

#### EMAIL

[gardnernc@aol.com](mailto:gardnernc@aol.com)

© 2008 Gardner  
All Rights Reserved

## GROUP HOMES

We are fast approaching the abatement deadline for group homes that didn't apply for a use permit under the City's ordinance. As yet we don't know if any will voluntarily comply, but for those that don't we will initiate proceedings to close them. Meanwhile, Senator Harmon is once again trying to introduce a bill in Sacramento that would address the issue of overconcentration, and while not wildly optimistic about a successful outcome we hope for a great deal more support than the first time around.

## YOU SAY ADVOCATE, I SAY LOBBY

The state Department of Water Resources is promulgating a new irrigation ordinance. I don't know what professional organization represents landscape architects, but I can't help but suspect that they were, if not actively pushing this, at least jumping up and down enthusiastically on the sidelines. Under the new law, any new or remodeled landscape over 2,500 square feet now has to have a plan drawn up by a landscape architect. No more do-it-yourself. The plan has to get planning and building permits, and then a landscape architect has to sign off on the finished product. Ka-ching.

Speaking of water, the City is hosting a **Water Wise Workshop** March 5, 6-8 pm, at the Central Library, featuring Ron Vanderhoff of Roger's Gardens.

## BARK PARK

I have had a couple of people approach me about a bark park in Newport Beach. Now, I have a 70-pound Weimeraner who likes to sit on my lap in the evening, and since I actually let him you get a sense of where I stand on dogs. Since he's a high energy animal—when he's not on my lap—having a place where he could legally retrieve tennis balls is an attractive thought. The main problem is finding a place that's safe for the dogs and doesn't create an issue with residents, not easy to find in our built-out community. The second concern I have is whether users would pick up after their dogs. There are still dog owners out there who seem to think that their pet's poop doesn't—well, you know.

## LOCAL COASTAL LAND USE PLAN

The City has been seeking approval of its Coastal Land Use Plan from the Coastal Commission. If approved, the City would take over most of the functions of the Commission within our coastal zone. If unapproved, everyone would continue to have to work through the Commission for approvals. It came down to the wire. The City's proposed plan had to be approved by the Commission on February 5, or we have to go back and start over, a year's delay, at least. The Commission staff made innumerable changes to what the City initially presented, and our staff has been working diligently with them for months to resolve these differences, but in two areas we remained in disagreement: time shares and lower-cost accommodations in the coastal zone.

The Coastal Act makes no mention of time-shares, so Commission staff interpreted this as a ban. The commissioners disagreed with this sweeping judgment, allowing time shares in visitor-serving areas with some conditions which will be worked out during the implementation phase. The second issue was thornier, as are all "affordable" issues in an area with high land values. The City had already agreed to charge in-lieu fees if new development eliminates existing lower-cost visitor accommodations. What we didn't want was to have to go back to the Commission each time for permission to spend the funds, and we also argued for the flexibility to use the funds for visitor-serving recreational facilities as well as for lower-cost accommodations. Since we have so many day visitors, this made sense to me but not to the commissioners who insisted the money go only for the accommodations, but they didn't require oversight of the funds.

The Council will study the wording of these requirements to see if they meet our needs and can be approved.

## WHAT DO YOU THINK?

This is a two-way process; please don't hesitate to contact me with your ideas and opinions.