



Rossmoor

July 2016—Issue XLI

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LA FITNESS—NOT SUCH A GOOD FIT!



Significant public outcry dominated the Tuesday, June 28, 2016 Special Meeting of the Rossmoor Community Services District. The RCSD Board made every effort to accommodate the unanticipated crowd of Rossmoor and Seal Beach attendees who made the pilgrimage to Rush Park to opine. The meeting was called to discuss the options for filing an appeal of the Seal Beach Planning Commissions' recent decision to approve the proposed construction of a 37,000 square foot LA Fitness Center in an already congested shopping center at [The Shops at Rossmoor in Seal Beach](#).

Among the major concerns expressed by citizens were those surrounding an impact on public safety due to increased traffic congestion and parking overflow which will inhibit access of emergency services. Many felt the traffic and environmental studies done by the developer were flawed. Others feared reduced property values. Still others were frustrated by the City of Seal Beach's apathetic response to, what amounted to, significant issues surrounding the project. *The developer/owner of the Shops at Rossmoor (Shops) has been approved to build and operate an LA Fitness Health Club on what is now parking, behind Sprouts, adjacent to Seal Beach Condominiums facing Montecito Road.* As a result of issues raised by Rossmoor residents and others, the Seal Beach City Council referred the matter to its Environment Quality Control Board (EQCB).

On May 18th, the EQCB met with a Committee of interested parties to discuss the project. Of major concern was the already present congestion and traffic issue at the four-way stop sign on Main Way. Most Rossmoor residents however, were primarily troubled about the loss of parking behind the Seal Beach townhomes which would likely result in overflow parking from [Seal Beach](#) residents onto Rossmoor streets, creating a pedestrian safety issue. At the conclusion of the meeting, the EQCB voted 4-1 to not send a recommendation to the Seal Beach Planning Commission in order to give the developer of the project time to respond to the issues raised. A meeting of the Planning Commission was held on June 20, 2016 to react to the developer's response. At their Regular Meeting of June 12, 2016, the RCSD Board of Directors also submitted a letter to the Seal Beach City Council and Planning Commission along with the General Manager's communication to the Board enumerating the myriad of issues raised and discussed.

At their Special Meeting on June 28, 2016 the RCSD Board of Directors voted unanimously to approve [Resolution No. 16-06-28-01 "Strongly Opposing the Decision of the Seal Beach Planning Commission..."](#) President DeMarco stated that although, the item was not within the powers of the District to abate, from a jurisdictional standpoint, and it was prohibited from contributing financially to the appeals process, the Board strongly supported the community's intent to file an appeal and agreed that the Planning Commission decision should be referred to the Seal Beach City Council and overturned.

Margaret Parker, President of the Rossmoor Park Condominiums HOA filed an appeal on behalf of the impacted property owners. [The next meeting of the Seal Beach City Council is on July 25, 2016.](#) The public is encouraged to attend and opine regarding this project. As one resident put it, "It's a good concept in a poor location."

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BOARD MEETINGS

2nd Tuesday of each month
@7 p.m. in the Rush Park Auditorium. Aired on LATV3.



RCSD BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President Tony DeMarco
1st VP Michael Maynard
2nd VP Ron Casey
Director Bill Kahlert
Director Dave Burgess



Staff: General Manager J.D. Ruth—Admin Assistant E. Deering—Accountant K. Bell—General Clerk J. Verduzco—Park Superintendent O. Perez—Recreation Superintendent. C. Argueta—Maintenance/Rec. J. Zaldana—Tree Consultant M. Kingman



EXECUTIVE MATTERS

James D. Ruth
General Manager

Summer is in full swing and our summer events are twice as fun! We would like to thank our food truck sponsors, Burger Monster and Dogzilla for sponsoring our first 2 for 1 Concert/Movie Event on Friday, June 17th, featuring the popular Elm Street Band and Minions movie. Our entertainment series continues throughout July and August with concerts, movies and Shakespeare, all within the ambiance of beautiful Rush Park. Another explosive celebration is just around the corner. Don't forget the Annual 4th of July Fireworks Spectacular on the Joint Forces Training Base in Los Alamitos where you can celebrate safely and sanely with family and friends. *See page 3 for details.*

[The Final Budget Hearing](#) will take place at our next regular board meeting on Tuesday, July 12, 2016 at 7 p.m. in the Rush Park Auditorium. See Budget Hearing Notice for more information.

Thanks to the coordination assistance from RCSD Staff, the California Department of Fish and Wildlife, cooperation from Rossmoor Homeowners Association, Orange County Animal Control, the Orange County Sheriff's Department, and all of Rossmoor's dedicated community volunteers, the Rossmoor Wildlife Watch Pilot Program is making steady progress. The new Wildlife Watch website is up and running, complete with an interactive coyote sightings map and hotline. To report coyote sightings visit www.rossmoorwildlife.org. Meetings are held monthly at Rush Park. For more information, please contact the Wildlife Watch team via the contact form on the website.

JDR

Quarterly Quote:
"Every day is a gift."
Jim Ruth

VACATION HOME CHECK

There's no place like home—except when you are on vacation, right? Getting away from it all usually involves freeing our minds from all that is familiar. But that's not to say that we can't have someone else thinking about home for us. What better way than to [request a vacation home check](#) from the Orange County Sheriff's Department? Most of Rossmoor's crimes are crimes of opportunity caused by unlocked doors, windows and leaving valuables in plain sight. [Just go to the rossmoor-csd.org](http://www.rossmoor-csd.org) website and fill out the brief online form. It's quick, easy and free too—Although, peace of mind is priceless!

SUMMER WATER SAFETY TIPS

According to the Orange County Fire Authority, Drowning is a preventable tragedy; yet, it is the leading cause of accidental injury and death in children under the age of 5 and the second leading cause of death in children under the age of 14. Adult males over 50, swimming alone, are also extremely vulnerable to drowning. Here are some quick tips to remember:

- 1) [Watch the ABC's of Drowning Video](#)
- 2) Learn to Swim
- 3) Learn CPR
- 4) Designate a Water Watcher to Watch All Swimmers
- 5) When at the Beach, Swim Near a Lifeguard
- 6) Install Barriers and Alarms Around All Pools & Spas
- 7) **NEVER SWIM ALONE**



Drowning—the silent killer.



SUMMER FUN HAS BEGUN!



The 4th of July Fireworks Spectacular will be held on the Joint Forces Training Base in Los Alamitos on Monday, July 4th starting at 4:00 pm. The Orange County Fire Authority and Orange County Sheriff's Department would like to remind us that fireworks are illegal in Rossmoor and many of the surrounding communities. Each year many adults and children are injured by fireworks. Fireworks begin promptly at 9:00 pm. So have a safe and sane celebration and leave the explosives to the experts.



TWIN TICKET 2016: Movies & Concerts in the Park—are back-to-back this year which means two for one fun for everyone! Our June 17th Movie Concert event was a huge success! The evening kicks off with a live concert beginning at **6 p.m.** immediately followed by an outdoor movie beneath the stars. Popcorn, great food, family, friends, music and cinema! Good times!

August Sponsor



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rossmoorwinterfestival.com

SHAKESPEARE BY THE SEA PRESENTS

Othello



Sat, Jul 23 at 7pm

An emotionally gripping thriller, where gossip turns friendships rancid, and rumor brutally murders innocence. Othello is as unflinching in its power as it is in its heartbreak.

2016 SBTs



Cymbeline

Sun, Jul 24 at 7pm

An action-adventure-fairy-tale-romance! Shakespeare tells an epic romantic tale filled with magical potions, dastardly villains, ghosts, gods and lost princes.

BONUS E-CONTENT

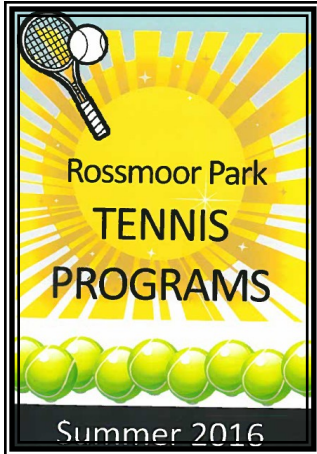
WATCH RCSD BOARD MEETINGS

[RCSD Board](#) meetings are televised on LATV-3 and on our Vimeo Channel. Be sure to subscribe. Meetings are also available for viewing 24/7 on our website. For questions pertaining to board meetings, agendas and speaker requests contact the [Administrative Assistant](#).

Coming Soon...

Online Tennis Reservations! In the next few months, tennis patrons will be able to register, pay and reserve tennis courts online. Stay Tuned for more info.

For information on our picnic site, field and facility rentals please visit our RecDesk Reservation Portal. Here you can access application forms, brochures and much more.



USPTA Certified Tennis Professional Fernando Molina has been teaching the fundamentals of tennis for over 35 years.

Fernando offers private and group lessons and is available year round.

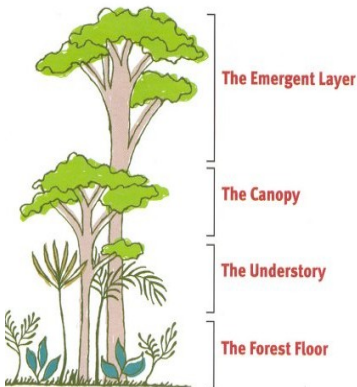
Contact Fernando at 562-209-3648.



Branch Banter With Mary Kingman **The Coolness of the Canopy**

As the weather heats up and that blazing sun starts to bake So Cal with its intense rays, residents may notice that Rossmoor seems a lot cooler than other local areas. That's because as a Tree City USA, Rossmoor has more mature trees per capita than other nearby communities.

The urban forest canopy is a community's best defense against the 'urban heat island' effect, a phenomenon that occurs when the roads and buildings within an urban area heat up and then cause temperatures to rise in the surrounding suburbs. Rossmoor is surrounded by busy roads and shopping centers, so there can be a lot of radiant heat coming off those roadways and buildings. Our trees absorb quite a bit of that heat energy and stop it before it even hits the ground.



Besides providing shade that cools the ground below their canopies, trees also release moisture through their leaves, which also cools the air. This benefit is only provided by trees that are growing well and have a canopy full of foliage, so it's important that we continue to water our trees and is yet another reason to not severely trim or top trees in the spring or summer.

The shade from a well placed tree on a property can reduce home cooling costs by up to 50%! While some of our less mature trees may not yet be providing shade; proper care and watering will give them a boost to ensure that they are benefited from in future. I'm always amazed at the difference that can occur between two like-species trees, planted at the same time, when one is neglected and one cared for and watered regularly. A little mulch and a little extra water can go a long way in making sure those trees are keeping you cool!

MK