Del Mar steps up mask enforcement, to hire part-time deputies

Council suggests county mandate face coverings anywhere outside of home

BY PHIL DIEHL

Del Mar plans to step up its enforcement of mask wearing in an effort to slow the spread of COVID-19.

The City Council agreed Monday, Aug. 3, to hire part-time deputies to work two days a week for the next four months to enforce San Diego County’s emergency public health order, with an emphasis on the requirement for facial coverings.

Violations of the county health order may be prosecuted as a misdemeanor with a fine of up to $1,000 and up to 90 days in jail.

The council also voted unanimously to ask the county health officer to expand the health order to include a requirement that people wear facial coverings anytime they leave their home, whether or not they are within 6 feet of another person not in their family.

“The concept is to get everybody to understand that when you go outside you have a mask and you wear it,” Councilmember Haley said.

SEE ENFORCEMENT, A29

Del Mar Foundation donates $180k to city

BY LUKE HAROLD

The Del Mar Foundation donated $180,820 to the city of Del Mar to help alleviate the financial difficulties from the COVID-19 pandemic.

The Del Mar City Council voted unanimously to accept the donation, and the Del Mar Foundation’s stipulations for how it will be spent, during its Aug. 3 virtual meeting.

Per the terms of the donation, the city will use $80,000 of the donation for capital improvement projects that were removed from the budget in the aftermath of the pandemic: $30,000 for improvements to the 17th St. Safety Center and $50,000 to continue the River Path Del Mar project.

“We hope that this funding will benefit our community as we work together to overcome the challenges COVID-19 presents to our individual and collective health and safety, and our community’s well-being,” Sandra Hoyle, president of the foundation, said in a presentation to council members.

The donation also includes $66,900 for the community services, which will help bolster the city’s Lifeguard Department; $15,300 for the fire department; $12,400 for public works; and $3,500 for human resources.

“I am just proud beyond belief to live in a community that has been off the state monitoring list for 14 consecutive days—San Diego County has been on the list since July 3,” Vice Mayor Delph said.

SEE FOUNDATION, A29

San Dieguito opts for distance learning through first quarter

BY KAREN BILLING

San Dieguito Union High School District will start the entirety of the first quarter of the school year with distance learning. The board gave direction to follow SDUHSD Superintendent Robert Haley’s recommendation at its July 30 virtual meeting.

Per Gov. Gavin Newsom’s July 17 order, schools can only physically open for in-person education when the county has been off the state monitoring list for 14 consecutive days—San Diego County has been on the list since July 3.

In order for San Dieguito to reopen, the county would have to be off the list by Aug. 10 and the first day of school is Aug. 25.

Haley said there is still uncertainty about the school being required to close if the county got back on the state’s watch list, potentially causing students and staff to be bouncing in and out of school. His recommendation further reflects that the state has issued requirements for staff testing that at this time, the county may not be able to accommodate.

“Our current situation that we find ourselves in, it’s difficult to consider a full reopening and then a closure, and then another reopening,” Haley said. “Although I

SEE DISTANCE, A29
Carmel Valley for Equal Justice continues to hold weekly protests

BY LUKE HAROLD

To further the local calls for racial justice, a new grassroots group called Carmel Valley for Equal Justice has been protesting every Saturday morning from 10 a.m. to noon at the corner of Del Mar Heights Road and El Camino Real.

“We’re going to keep this up,” said Nick Gekakis, who co-founded the group with his wife, Liz. “I think we need to keep up the awareness, we need to continuously remind people that we have this problem and that we need to take action against it.”

Gekakis said his wife wanted to launch a sustained effort to address the societal inequalities underscored earlier this year in Minneapolis, where George Floyd was killed in police custody after an officer knelt on his neck for almost nine minutes.

He added that the news of Rayshard Brooks, who was shot and killed by an Atlanta police officer in mid June, gave him an increased sense of urgency to hold local demonstrations.

SEE PROTESTS, A30

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