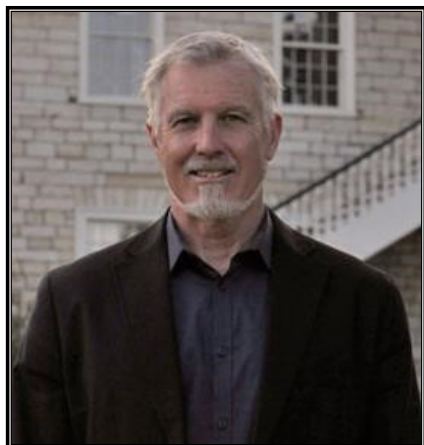


HOMELESS IN PARADISE

June 24, 2016

Column #89



Timothy Barrett



KQED file photo

WHAT'S YOUR QUESTION?

Where are Seaside's new No Parking signs?

By Wanda Sue Parrott

FOLLOWING this column's announcement May 27 of the media blitz on homelessness in San Francisco Wed., June 29, we got this news release from KQED. If it raises questions in your mind, let us know.

This month, KQED journalists, along with more than 40 local media organizations, are focusing attention on those living without shelter in the Bay Area. KQED's Bay Curious, an explorative news series that investigates community members' questions, wants to know: What question about homelessness would you like us to look into?

We have a few local questions.

Where Have Seaside's Homeless Campers Gone?

On May 19, Seaside City Council voted unanimously to adopt the amendment to modify chapter 10.04 and Chapter 10.32 of its Municipal Code to prohibit the parking of recreational vehicles, trailers and prohibited vehicles on the streets, alleys, public rights-of-way, and publicly owned lots. The equivalent (in my estimation) of 30-day eviction notices would be placed on such vehicles, and signs were to be posted at entrances to the city.

On Sunday after council's decision, I drove around Seaside and counted 26 such vehicles in which people appeared to be living. A month later, June 19, I drove the same streets and counted only nine vehicles. There were none at Roberts Lake or Laguna Grande Park.

Where did Seaside's homeless campers go?

Where Are Seaside's New No-Parking Signs?

Next day, Mon., June 20, I checked entrances to the city for the afore-promised new No Parking signs.
Nada!

Instead, I discovered Seaside to be a city of friendly signs. Sandwiched between the Del Rey Oaks sign and the Burger King driveway on Fremont is a welcome wall of small boulders topped by a sign identifying Seaside as a “Purple Heart City.”

It’s flanked by fraternal signs arrayed like a doctor’s diplomas: Rotary Club International; American Legion Post 591; Kiwanis International; Beta Sigma Phi; Knights of Columbus (KC); Community Partners for Youth (CPY); Lions International.

At the bottom is a faded, almost illegible Retired Men’s Social Club sign that harkens back to the halcyon days of old Fort Ord.

Two bright new National Weather Service signs proclaim Seaside as both a Storm-Ready Community and a Tsunami-Ready Community whose message is: *In case of earthquake, go to high ground or inland.*

No signs prohibiting sleeping in vehicles was among them.

Signs in three parking lots at Laguna Grande Park revealed the park is open between dawn and dusk, but no specific after-dusk rules were visible.

Also, no dogs, alcoholic beverages and playing hard ball are allowed, and reservations are required for use of specific picnic facilities.

Closest thing I found to the new no-parking sign was on Canyon del Rey (CA 218) just beyond the Walgreens driveway: *Commercial vehicles parked in Seaside is prohibited on the streets and in reserved areas except as posted.*

Is that “it”?

To learn more about Seaside, follow the link from this sign: www.ci.seaside.ca.us.

Grumbles From The Grapevine?

Overheard, but not confirmed, are mumbles from neighbors about Pebble Beach Company’s low-income housing for employees (or other eligibles): *If a lawyer is retained, can PB be stopped from proceeding as planned?*

What Takes So Long To Get Things Done?

Monterey City Council member Timothy Barrett explained that “The Housing Element is the overriding policy document that allows council to assess housing in the city. . . We work with various neighborhoods to discuss the potential, and incorporating existing housing stock. . . Even though we have immediate need, the policy decisions take time.”

He was speaking as a member of United Way Monterey County’s “Struggling to Get By: The Real Cost Measure in California” panel on Wed., June 15.

The program introduced the Real Cost Measure (RCM), a new tool that gives a more-realistic picture of poverty than the standard Federal Poverty Line of \$23,283 annual income for a single person.

In Monterey and San Benito counties, 34 percent of households live below the RCM of \$22,756 for a single adult, \$33,902 for two adults, and \$53,113 for household with at least one working adult.

Obtain “Impact” by visiting impactmontereycounty.org or contacting:

Fatima.dias@unitedwaymcca.org.

What's Happening With Monterey's Warming-Shelter Issue?

In Monterey, \$25,000 in Neighborhood Improvement Program funding was approved at the June 7 meeting for conducting a study of locations suitable for a warming shelter during inclement weather and possibly year-round.

That's a good sign.

During my sign-hunt in Seaside, a Dodge van piled with homeless-lifestyle stuff pulled in front of me. Two bumper signs flashed like turn signals:

The dogs bark and the caravan moves on. Old Arab Proverb

Happy News. It's all there is.

Can any sign readers explain their meanings?

(Correction: Last week's column contained an error in I-HELP's name. It should have said "interdenominational Interfaith Homeless Emergency Lodging Program." My apology.)

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