City groups consider new policies

Tibor Blatz
OCS correspondent

A request for a variance to allow a rock wall on North Signal Street helped prompt a workshop between the Ojai Planning Commission and the Ojai City Council, who voted five to one for the variance, and then it came to the Council, who voted five to one in favor of the variance," summarized Commissioner John Mirk during the Tuesday night workshop. "He was kind of noticed that we were getting out of step between the Planning Commission and the Council." There was a (statewide) presentation we were in that addressed variances, and it basically said, bottom line, that it is rare to give out variances," offered Commissioner Kathleen Nolan. Nolan continued that there is typically a stringent list of criteria qualifying a property for a variance — for example, when a stream runs through the property and creates a changing topography. This, she theorized, prevented just about anyone who wanted the variance from getting out of step between the city and the Planning Commission. "Oil and gas fields may contain additional carcinogenic chemicals and other hazardous materials that were not previously present." He said that this settlement "is an important first step towards addressing this pollution." As part of the agreement, Vintage will examine its storm-water management systems, consider a new procedure for appealing staff planning and building approvals, and to gear up for the 2013-2014 fiscal year budget. Ojai City Council used its regular meeting Tuesday to reaffirm its goals and priorities, consider a new procedure for appealing staff planning and building decisions and to gear up for the 2013-2014 fiscal year budget. In response to some contentious decisions on specific planning and building applications, Mayor Paul Blatz suggested establishing a process by which applicants could have the staff decision reviewed administratively by the mayor and mayor pro tem. Out of 600 applications, we are accountable to the electorate. So we have a little bit more flexibility in the way that we interpret the finding that we have to find. For Commissioner Troy Becker, the discrepancies between the City Council and the Planning Commission decisions allowed the property owner to get away with serious transgressions.

See Policies, Page A3

Vintage oil agreement may set precedent

Kimberly Rivers
OCS correspondent

In a consent decree filed earlier this week with the U.S. District Court's San Luis Obispo County beaches that receive untreated storm runoff from the Rincon/Grubb Oil Field, "The measures required in this settlement agreement will improve water quality along the miles of Ventura and Santa Barbara County beaches that receive untreated storm runoff from these fields and the rise of fracking means that there may contain additional carcinogenic chemicals and other hazardous materials that were not previously present." He said that this settlement "is an important first step towards addressing this pollution." As part of the agreement, Vintage will examine its storm-water management systems, consider a new procedure for appealing staff planning and building approvals, and to gear up for the 2013-2014 fiscal year budget. Ojai City Council used its regular meeting Tuesday to reaffirm its goals and priorities, consider a new procedure for appealing staff planning and building decisions and to gear up for the 2013-2014 fiscal year budget. In response to some contentious decisions on specific planning and building applications, Mayor Paul Blatz suggested establishing a process by which applicants could have the staff decision reviewed administratively by the mayor and mayor pro tem. Out of 600 applications, we are accountable to the electorate. So we have a little bit more flexibility in the way that we interpret the finding that we have to find. For Commissioner Troy Becker, the discrepancies between the City Council and the Planning Commission decisions allowed the property owner to get away with serious transgressions.

See Policies, Page A3

Peloton pedals past Playhouse

The Amgen Tour of California bicycle race came through Ojai Wednesday afternoon on Stage 4 of the race, which took riders from Santa Clarita to Santa Barbara, primarily via Highway 150. Hundreds of spectators lined the road to watch riders sprint through town.
CRIMES
- A 33-year-old man was arrested on Loma Vista Road May 13. Bail was set at $5,000.
- A 27-year-old man was arrested on South Rice Road May 14 on a suspicion of being under the influence of a controlled substance. Bail was set at $5,000.
- A 20-year-old man was arrested on Matilija Ave. May 14. Bail was set at $27,500.
- A 56-year-old man was arrested on Thacher Road May 13. Bail was set at $5,000.
- A 22-year-old man was arrested on Park View Drive May 9 on suspicion of being under the influence of a controlled substance. Bail was set at $5,000.
- A 20-year-old man was arrested on North Anacapa Street May 9 on a suspicion of making criminal threats. Bail was set at $5,000.
- A 19-year-old man was arrested on North Anacapa Street May 11 on suspicion of being under the influence of a controlled substance. Bail was set at $5,000.
- A 22-year-old man was arrested on East Ventura Avenue May 12 for public intoxication. Bail was set at $2,500.
- A 28-year-old man was arrested on Sumney Avenue May 12 for domestic violence. Bail was set at $5,000.
- A 27-year-old man was arrested on North Anacapa Street May 12 on suspicion of being under the influence of a controlled substance. Bail was set at $5,000.
- A 30-year-old man was arrested on Matilija Ave. May 12 for domestic violence. Bail was set at $5,000.
- A 27-year-old man was arrested on West Morris Street May 13 on suspicion of being under the influence of a controlled substance. Bail was set at $5,000.
- A 27-year-old man was arrested on East Ventura Avenue May 14 on a suspicion of being under the influence of a controlled substance. No bail was set.

BUSIEST TIMES OF THE YEAR
Putting the YOU in value
It’s getting easier to get the Ojai Valley News at no cost!
$5 off any 60 minute or more treatment*
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The Ojai Valley Bridge Club meets every Monday and Friday at 12:30 p.m. at the United Methodist Church, 120 North Rice Road. Everyone is welcome to join. Singles will be provided with a partner. For more information, call 640-8523 or 646-1211.

The winners for Fri., May 10, were: N/S 1st, Vincent Abate and Karen Abate; N/S 2nd, Tudy Gruber and Linda Gruber, N/S 3rd, Carol Jarboe and Marie Offerman, E/W 1st, Gary Petrowski and Irene Petroff, E/W 2nd, Rosanne Brown and Louise Catlicath, E/W 3rd, Mike Gaddis and Alene Bernheim.

The winners for Mon., May 6, were: N/S 1st, Dick Zinzl, Jack Keaveney, Elijah; N/S 2nd, Joan Fochiose and Janice Murphy; N/S 3rd, Mike Gaddis and Aline Berou; E/W 1st, Buki Burke and Peter Koppe, E/W 2nd, Elaine McKandies and Anne Conn; E/W 3rd, Pal Cunningham and Nina Whaly.

The winners for Fri., May 10, were: N/S 2nd, Christopher Gill and Beth Bever; N/S 3rd, Marie Wilcox and Bob Bever; N/S 4th, N/W 3rd, Marie Wilcox and Bob Bever; N/S 5th, Marie Wilcox and Bob Bever; N/S 6th, Marie Wilcox and Bob Bever.

The winners for Mon., May 6, were: N/S 2nd, Diana Zinzl and Catherine Murphy; N/S 3rd, Marie Wilcox and Bob Bever.

The winners for Fri., May 1, were: E/W 1st, Mark McCullough and Judy McCullough; E/W 2nd, Mark McCullough and Judy McCullough; E/W 3rd, David Zinzl and Catherine Murphy.

The winners for Mon., April 28, were: N/S 1st, David Zinzl and Catherine Murphy; N/S 2nd, David Zinzl and Catherine Murphy; N/S 3rd, David Zinzl and Catherine Murphy; N/S 4th, David Zinzl and Catherine Murphy; N/S 5th, David Zinzl and Catherine Murphy; N/S 6th, David Zinzl and Catherine Murphy.

The winners for Fri., April 25, were: E/W 1st, Bruce and Judy McCullough; E/W 2nd, Bruce and Judy McCullough; E/W 3rd, David Zinzl and Catherine Murphy; E/W 4th, David Zinzl and Catherine Murphy; E/W 5th, David Zinzl and Catherine Murphy; E/W 6th, David Zinzl and Catherine Murphy.

The winners for Mon., April 21, were: N/S 1st, Mark McCullough and Judy McCullough; N/S 2nd, Mark McCullough and Judy McCullough; N/S 3rd, Mark McCullough and Judy McCullough; N/S 4th, Mark McCullough and Judy McCullough; N/S 5th, Mark McCullough and Judy McCullough; N/S 6th, Mark McCullough and Judy McCullough.
As planning commissioners and council members, we often have to deal with a lot of people who don’t have something we have to do. We Dex all done that. And it isn’t that we don’t have a good

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The Ojai Film Society will screen “Clandestine Childhood,” director Benjamin Garcia’s film, which focuses on a 12-year-old boy who lives under a fake identity. The film is marketed as a unique animated segment of Argentina’s Dirty War, which lasted from 1976 to 1983. The parents vow to fight the dictatorship for their son, who is admitted to regular school but never allowed to talk about his identity. The parents try to reconcile the tensions between love and resentment, between openness and secrecy. 

Alan Scherstuhl of The Village Voice writes, “With superb performances, unique animation, and strict control over its pace and music, this film renews our appreciation of the form for something more vibrant and urgent than the usual American official.”

The screening is free of charge. Advance registration is required. Tickets are $10 for the general public, $7 for seniors 62 and older and $5 for students with ID. Subsequent screenings include “Hood” at 10 a.m. on May 19, and “Man in the Moon” at 4:30 p.m. on May 20. All screenings include site photography, and music, and are free of charge. Visit www.ojaiplayhouse.org for more information.

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KUMON is an after-school program with a 50 year proven track record.

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Preschool through 12th grade and beyond

**KUMON HAS MOVED • KUMON HAS MOVED**

**movie review**

**Clandestine Childhood** is vibrant

The Ojai Film Society will screen “Clandestine Childhood,” director Benjamin Garcia’s film, which focuses on a 12-year-old boy who lives under a fake identity. The parents vow to fight the dictatorship for their son, who is admitted to regular school but never allowed to talk about his identity. The parents try to reconcile the tensions between love and resentment, between openness and secrecy. 

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Call David at 646-1446, May 23 and 30 at 1:30 p.m. “Maximizing Your Vision,” N. Montgomery St., will present a program of books ranging in price.

OJAI NATIONAL WALKING DAY —- Saturdays at 10 a.m., Ojai Valley Museum, 1380 Park Dr. Tours of downtown historic structures. Decent Holly. Tickets will be sold at the door for $5.

CONSERVATION PROFESSIONAL MEETUP — Center for Urban Vogel, 17017 Maricopa Highway, will host Catherine Ann Jones will present information about her work as an active in New York and Hollywood, and interviews Strauss about his winning Hollywood actor starring in “Mile”) will be shown. The Perry Brothers Band in Concourse, 160 Besant Road, Ojai. Tickets are $25 at the door, $35 VIP. Call 640-1142.

MEMORIAL DAY BREAKFAST —- City of Ojai, Hall, 123 N. Ojai Ave. Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 270 with the American Legion Post 462 will hold a breakfast for the day. May 27 from 7 to 11 a.m. at the Legion Hall, 843 E. Ojai Ave. Tickets: $25, available at www.calfiddlers.com or the door. “The Perry Brothers Band in Concourse, 160 Besant Road, Ojai. Tickets are $25 at the door, $35 VIP. Call 640-1142. The American Legion Post 462 will hold a breakfast for the day. May 27 from 7 to 11 a.m. at the Legion Hall, 843 E. Ojai Ave. Tickets: $25, available at www.calfiddlers.com or the door.

THE OJAI CONCERT SERIES —- at Ojai Coffee Roasting Co. on Park St., tickets $40, $20 seniors, $27 adults, $3 for children. Call 403-2970. or visit www.ojaiconcertseries.com or call (800) 944-4154.

RONALD CHASE —- a beginners’ bird walk May 25 at 10:30 a.m. at Cañada Larga Road, led by Allen Bertke (640-9037).

OSCAR WINNER’S DINNER IN CONCERT —- Ojai Youth Entertain- ment: The Perry Brothers Band in Concourse, 160 Besant Road, Ojai. Tickets will be sold at the door for $5.

STEFAN RODOWITZ —- an annual Investigative Service of One” —- Nancy at 302-6093.

LAWRENCE OF THE BLUE —- Branson’s Ojai Chapter, who will present a program of books ranging in price.

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Love must be personal

John Robison

"Imagine two country clubs. The first has a strict set of rules and only allows in people who have earned their membership. They have to accomplish something, obtain superior wisdom, or fulfill a long list of requirements to qualify for entry. Despite their best efforts, lots of people just won't make the grade and will be excluded. In effect, this is what other religious systems are like. Only allows in people who meet certain qualifications but only from an individual, ethnic heritage or where you seek admittance."

"That what Christianity is like. Which country club is being snobbish? Christians aren't Exclusive. They're being inclusive. They're not being haughty; they're being hospitable."


"In religion the ability to see the whole elephant is possible only by omniscience.

A generic force in the universe that is not omniscient only allows in people who feel the trunk and makes large assumptions. God, etc. This allegory is all about asking us to explain that religions are haughty; they're being exclusionary. In effect, this is what other religious systems are like. Only allows in people who meet certain qualifications but only from an individual, ethnic heritage or where you seek admittance."

"If you know any questions please contact Rhonda Basore, City Clerk, 805-646-1437 for more information.

Our Lady and All Angels Liberal Catholic Church is a lay-run, non-profit church for people of all ages and backgrounds. A special invitation is extended to all, to attend worship and use the facilities. No membership is required.

We are located at 1502 E. Ojai Ave. For further information call 646-0570. All meetings will begin at 7:00 p.m. and held in the Council Chambers, 401 S. Maricopa Hwy., Ojai.

If you have any questions please contact Rhonda Basore, City Clerk, 805-646-1437 for more information.
Ojai Valley News • Friday, May 17, 2013 A7

Featured letter

"Proposed Casitas Water District bond funding mechanism is not equitable"

By Randy Franke, Ojai

I strongly disagree with CastañoMuñoz’s letter published May 14 (CMWD proposed parcel tax). This proposal is not equitable. The Casitas Water District (CMWD) is proposing to fund a $108.18 each billing period. I believe that the parcel tax should be reduced. If a parcel tax is the only funding source for the bond, then most parcels would lose water and would no longer be able to supply water.

If a parcel tax is the only funding source for the bond, then most parcels would lose water and would no longer be able to supply water.

I suggest a fair and equitable mechanism for funding the bond: the CMWD should provide water to the parcel that purchased more water when the parcel last purchased water. This would ensure that the parcel is buying water that is needed.

The essence of a parcel tax is to reflect the water purchase history. The parcel tax should be the same for all parcels. This would result in larger parcels that purchase more water paying significantly more than smaller parcels that purchase much less water. The parcel tax should be based on the parcel’s volume or less, respectively, than their fair share.

The amount of water each customer purchases represents their share of the system. A water rate surcharge would simply and fairly allocate costs. The more you purchase, the more CMWD infrastructure is supporting your parcel, and therefore the more you pay. The less you purchase, the less you pay. The reason for this is that water costs. The more you purchase, the more you pay.

For a 5,000-1 acre parcel, total costs $1,050.46 + $124.34 average additional cost each billing period over the 30 years. For 225-500 acres, total costs $30,180 or 601.71 each billing period. For parcels under 225 acres, total costs $13,173 or 108.18 each billing period.

I find it irresponsible to move forward with a 30-year bond funded with an insupportable parcel tax allocation that is unfair and inequitable for allocating the cost of acquiring and improving the water system exists. As the proposed currently stands, I have to vote "No" on the CMWD proposal.

Letters to the Editor
Send your opinions to letters@ojaivalleynews.com

Featured letter

"A reader sends a thumbs-up to Jackie and friends at the Ojai Veterinary Hospital"

By John Brooks, Ojai View

JOHN BROOKS, OAK VIEW

Proposed Casitas Water District bond funding mechanism is not equitable

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owner Bill Buchanan buccom@comcast.net ext. 220

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Mexican/California Cuisine

112 W Ojai Ave. Ojai, CA 93023 Phone: 805-646-0076.

For more information, please call Nancy Hill at 646-6076.

Parade entries due soon

An annual tradition that the participants for the 2013 Ojai Valley Days Parade are due June 1.

Youth dog parade

Youth dog parade entries are due June 1.

Participation fees

• Dog entry fee $16

For more information, please call Nancy Hill at 646-6076.
Massarella showing at Human Arts

Massarella, Frank

Human Arts Gallery owners Hallie and Stan Katz have announced that they will be representing Frank Massarella, now that he has closed his studio, Firehouse Pottery, on South Montgomery Street.

To celebrate their new alliance Human Arts will host a reception Saturday, May 25, during the evening downtown art walk, "Alive After 5," from 5 until 8 p.m.

Following "Art in the Park." Come meet Frank Massarella, and all of Human Arts' other local artists, nationally recognized jewelry designer, Andrea Hafner.

Photo submitted

Frank Massarella holds a shell with a selection of his work.

John McCutcheon is shown perusing the 2013 Ojai Storytelling Festival.

According to Katz, an understanding of composition helps a photographer lead the viewer's eye into and through a photograph.

Photo by Dean Zatkowsky

Photo club meets Tuesday

Myrna Cambiaso

Ojai Photography Club President Dean Zatkowsky will lead a discussion of photographic composition at the organization's meeting this Tuesday at 7 p.m. at Little House, 111 W. Santa Ana St., in Ojai.

Monthly presentations are part of the Photography Club's outreach service and volunteers are welcome to attend.

Using the "Rule of Thirds" and "Golden Section" as points of departure, Zatkowsky will share simple concept illustrations from Visual photographer Martin Garner, and delve into photography's role in art education.

A longtime marketing executive and current manager for the Santa Barbara-based Orfalea Foundation, Zatkowsky is an accomplished photographer whose work on the human experience has been published in a number of psychology and medical journals.

According to Zatkowsky, an understanding of composition helps a photographer lead the viewer's eye into and through a photograph.

Arts Calendar

Lotus Productions

Special Events Presents

Entrepreneur Gala Business Expo

An expo that celebrates owners of creative and successful local businesses who empower, engage, instruct, enrich and entertain.

When: May 18th, 2013 10:00am - 5:00pm
Where: Hilton Adagio Gardens in Ojai, California
Free admission and parking

South Shore Still Available

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In the Southern California regional championships, a total of 41 teams took part in the three-day competition.

The Ojai Masters swimmers captured first place in All-League meets including Summer Van Overton, Alex Ackerman, Alex Henggeler, Nina May, Paige Small, Kayley Cox, Derek Kendall, Kaitlin Edwards, Emmett Johnsen, and Sophia Zara. Earning Second Team honors were Andrew Holland, Josh Cooper, Alex Osborn, and McKinley Johnson.

Their successful showing at the Frontier League championships took 17 swimmers to the CIF finals, which were held May 18 and 19 at the River Ridge Golf Course.

Griep has huge day in Sundowner Golf action this week

“The last two weeks have been a demonstration of what club can do,” said Carol Duque. The three-wood approach iron and you middle shot, and putter. “The idea of this one’s choosing plus the with just three clubs of mini-tournament at Nine Women’s Golf League.”

The Front Nine group won both foursomes and sixes, while the Back Nine group proved to be the top point producer. Both groups entered. That group consisted of Maria Habsen, Liz Mahoney, Tim Chavez, Shandon Wolfe, Brooks Miles,和 Sarah Behrens, Montegut, Manila Devaraj, Laura Beires, Laura St. Laurent, Cammy Becket, Kelly Ford, and Julie Edgcomb, Jeanne Edgcomb, Sharleen Ornelas, Pam Scott, Jenny Spraggins, and Reese Ganza, Carla Rutland, Shannon Einam, and Tina Thomas.

Fewer in numbers but the outcome, were the following competitive: Mary Delanore Kurtis Taka, Bob Ward, Wayne Tate, and Jim Becket. The Whitman, Kerry Ellis, and Nancy Voyer, Wenke Borland, Sheri Ann Cate, and Reese Gooden. Noted that he good finish was a good one for the entire team’s efforts, her awards, and achievements, and would all her hard work paid off. From the opening long season every Friday, in which Ojai swimmers finished strong, Ojai consistently did a good one throughout the weekend, finishing second seven times once again they came one of the top four places in Southern California. Ojai Valley Athletic Club, 668-213.

Spring & Summer

The Ojai Masters swim team recently took second place in the Southern California regional championships. A total of 41 teams took part in the three-day competition.

It was just about one year ago that the Ojai Masters swim team captured the powerhouse Rose Bowl Aquatics to win the 2012 regional championships. This year the Ojai swimmers could not repeat the feat, but came close — Rose Bowl Aquatics outscored Ojai, 389-363, with 381 points.

For their efforts at the league finals, swimmers captured first place in all-League meets including Summer Van Overton, Alex Ackerman, Alex Henggeler, Nina May, Paige Small, Kayley Cox, Derek Kendall, Kaitlin Edwards, Emmett Johnsen, and Sophia Zara. Earning Second Team honors were Andrew Holland, Josh Cooper, Alex Osborn, and McKinley Johnson.

Their successful showing at the Frontier League championships took 17 swimmers to the CIF finals, which were held May 18 and 19 at the River Ridge Golf Course. The final five holes to finish at two-under-par in the meet. Myles Delamore carded an 88 to move on to the CIF finals, which will be played at La Concha Country Club on May 24. Delamore will now advance to the CIF finals, which will be held Monday.

The Ojai women’s golf team was the top producer for that year, and capturing the title. That group consisted of Maria Habsen, Liz Mahoney, Tim Chavez, Shandon Wolfe, Brooks Miles, Sarah Behrens, Montegut, Manila Devaraj, Laura Beires, Laura St. Laurent, Cammy Becket, Kelly Ford, and Julie Edgcomb, Jeanne Edgcomb, Sharleen Ornelas, Pam Scott, Jenny Spraggins, and Reese Ganza, Carla Rutland, Shannon Einam, and Tina Thomas.

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Art classes should go hand-in-hand with business courses—constructing artists in the art of sales and marketing as well as developing their passion. Teachers Kate Thomas and Gray Dunecas provide this experience to their students. Since 2010, the Nordhoff High School art department has been involved in “Art in the Park.”

“Those students who took advantage of the opportunity have been enthusiastic, and welcome the chance to sell their work again,” says Duncan. “Some were a bit nervous but quickly gained confidence once they made their first sale. The word spread, making other art students anxious to participate. Last year two of the students made several hundred dollars and the others were in disbelief.

“This is a great opportunity for the students to have a real life experience in art. It’s what professional artists do, make and sell their art. What a great self-esteem boost,” says Duncan. "Many look forward to the spring for the opportunity to sell at Art in the Park." Bottom line, what a wonderful experience for the young artists!”

“Art in the Park” is celebrating its 36th year. The show’s tagline boasts "Fine Art in a Fine Place" because Ojai, after all, is the perfect place for an art show. Ojai welcomes artists from all over the country to display and sell their works of art each Memorial Day weekend. The Ojai Art Center and art students of Nordhoff High School invite you to "Art in the Park," May 25 and 26, this Memorial Day weekend in Libbey Park.

Admission is free. For more information, visit oajartcenter.org or call 646-6117.
Something is remiss in Washington

"Oh, Mr. Bloom, indeed. I didn't know you spoke Chinese."

"I'm beginning to think you're impertinent, young man."

"Could it be possible, sir, you meant Ben Gazzara?"

"Chow mein."