

EasyReader

Letters

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Correction

Last week, Easy Reader mistakenly identified Richard Anderson as the owner of Bacchus Wine Made Simple, in Manhattan Beach. Anderson is the building owner. Ron Miranda and Charlie Bean are the owners of Bacchus. Also last week, Easy Reader misidentified the instructor of the Science Center at Grandview Elementary School, who is Brenda Centrulo, not Debra Cetrub.

Gym-nauseam

Dear ER:

I have been trying to keep up with the current goings-on regarding the building of more classrooms at Hermosa Valley School and have come to realize that we are not getting the classrooms, as promised in Bond J, that we voted for (School district may be short \$1 million for construction, ER Jan. 27, 2005.) The school is totally overcrowded now and more children are coming. We are going to get a huge gym that will be used by the school, Beach Cities Health District, a club volleyball team, and any group or organization that wants to rent it out, day or night. What happened to the "Ed" in education? I believe we were all totally misled by the school board and Education Foundation. We have a perfectly good gym at Pier Avenue that, with some upgrades, could serve quite well for all those concerned about renting out the facility. It would be perfect for our children, too. It has all the parking needed. Hermosa Valley has maybe 40-50 spaces. I know that we have use of the Pier Ave. building for free since it was written into the agreement when it was turned from a school to a community building years ago. Why aren't the people of Hermosa being made aware of what is really happening? Why not put the gymnasium to a vote?

Jacki Friedman
Hermosa Beach

For the record

Dear ER:

In November 2002, the voters of Hermosa Beach approved Bond Measure J which authorized the Hermosa Beach City School District (the District) to issue \$13.6 million in general revenue bonds and to qualify for another \$2.0 million of state funds. Thus, the district had \$15.6 million for its school and classroom improvements and new construction.

As required by State law, the District appointed an independent Citizens' Oversight Committee (COC) to inform the public concerning bond revenues to assure the funds are used for bond-approved items and not for teacher salaries, administrative costs, or operating expenses.

The Citizens' Oversight Committee consists of the following seven (7) members: Sam Abrams, Chair – Member-at-Large, Gary Wayland, Vice Chair – Business Orgn. Rep., Lisa Arnett – School Facilities Advisory Committee, Jim Caldwell – Taxpayer Orgn. Rep., Jim Hausle – Parent Rep., Eleanor Lynn – Senior Citizen Rep., Cindy Smet – Parent Teacher Orgn. Rep.

The COC issued its first Annual Report in October 2004, stating that the district was fully compliant with the requirements of California law – none of the bond funds had been used for prohibited purposes. The latest independent auditors' report (as of 6/30/04) indicates that the district continues to be compliant.

The district, board, and staff have been very cooperative with the COC, sharing all construction planning data, all projected cost data (contract values), and all payment information. The District has, also, been very helpful in

providing administrative support to the COC.

Financial reports at the end of 2004 indicate that \$9.8 million has been expended and encumbered for the modernization of View and Valley Schools (which was completed early and below the contracted value) and the planning for new construction at Valley School.

The remaining funds of \$5.8 million will be used for new construction of a gymnasium, classrooms, and library, technology infrastructure, and additional bond sales expense.

Rapidly rising costs of construction have put extreme pressure on the district to get the work done within its bond revenue constraints. It is possible that the scope of the new construction at Valley School may have to be revised or reduced as a result of rising construction costs, or an additional source(s) of funds will have to be found.

The Citizens' Oversight Committee's next meeting will be Wednesday, March 23, 2005, at 5:30 p.m. in the Multipurpose Room at Valley School in Hermosa Beach. The public is invited to attend.

Sam Abrams, Chair

HBCSD Bond Measure J Citizens' Oversight Committee

Playing telephone

Dear ER:

For the past week, our telephone lines in Manhattan Beach have not been working. We use a reseller who buys Verizon Copper. Today I had a call from one of the Verizon reps who was calling all of the afflicted. She informed me about the 'usual, the predictable, etc.' Never have we had such a rainstorm and the culprit was that the underground cables had been submerged in water. They had to bring in telephone people from Oregon, Washington and Idaho to handle this repair job. She did say that my repair schedule is Feb. 15, but perhaps sooner as they are working 10-14 hours/day to correct the problem. Our household is part of the 50,000 Verizon customers who have suffered through this outage.

In Manhattan Beach we have people who really want to bury the telephone cables and anything else that is up on poles because it will make our town look better. However, reality says that we are just creating a bigger problem with not only water but also the possibility of earthquakes, and many other problem that could make the cables less accessible. My question to my fellow my neighbors, is this risk really worth the benefit? I am very convinced that it isn't and can recall the election of a few years ago when the candidate ran for council with only one plank: no under grounding. Dan Stern won an overwhelming victory. But times have changed, we have new people in town and the lure of having the poles removed is so very attractive. One additional point that occurred me to focus on this issue, I truly expected our big newspaper from LA to headline this matter. They did a great job with the Metro accident. Perhaps I should have worked in a better opening like, "Bush lied, kids died." Can I borrow a few electrons from anyone for my computer?

Ira Wallis

Manhattan Beach

Inter-esting

Dear ER:

Thank you J.K. Frazier...some enlightenment (ER Letters Jan. 27, 2004). The Internet is what you make of it. If someone wants to spend life in porn, porn is there. However, the Internet offers so much more to the rest of us. By the way, for those upset about access to porn, please don't spend too much time in front of the Manhattan Beach Post Office as it is in lovely living color there. Why aren't you protesting that?

Monica Griffin

Manhattan Beach

Chamber politics

Dear ER:

A recent letter to the editor misrepresented the expectations of our membership relative to the Chamber's political role in Redondo Beach. A recent survey of our membership found that representing the interests of business with government is important to 75 percent of our members, and working to elect business friendly candidates to government offices is important to 81 percent of our members. Our research is contrary to the letter writer's statement that most of our members support a "politically neutral" Chamber.

Our city deserves a Chamber that does its job representing the interests of business by providing a forum for our community to interact with future leaders, such as our Candidate's Forum on February 8. It deserves a Chamber