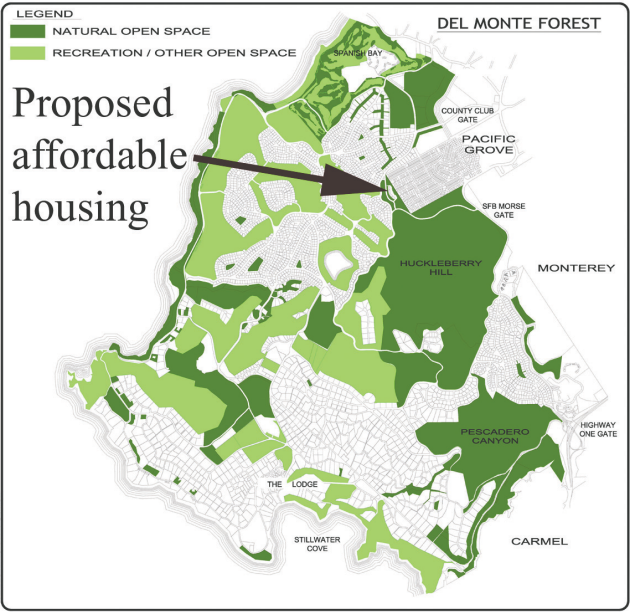


COMMITTEE SAYS P.B. HOUSING SHOULD BE BUILT SOMEWHERE ELSE

By KELLY NIX

DAYS AFTER an advisory panel recommended an affordable housing project in Del Monte Forest be built



The 24-unit employee housing project proposed by the P.B. Co. is just a tiny, curved speck on a map of Del Monte Forest, but it has caused a big stink.

PEBBLE BEACH CO. GRAPHIC

somewhere else, nearby residents vowed to continue to fight the proposal at the county level, where actual permit decisions will be made.

At the conclusion of a heated Pebble Beach Land Use Advisory Committee meeting Oct. 3 — where impassioned Pacific Grove and Pebble Beach residents spoke against the project, including one who said it would “smell like a meth lab” and be “as noisy as a drag strip” — the committee recommended 7-0 that the 24 rental units intended for Pebble Beach Co. employees be built somewhere besides next to the Pacific Grove neighborhood known as Del Monte Park.

The Monterey County Board of Supervisors, when it approved the Pebble Beach Co.’s overall development plan in 2012, recommended the affordable housing project be built inside Del Monte Forest.

Pebble Beach resident Jim Hemphill and his wife, Judi, who live on Congress, said they will continue to help seek signatures for a petition opposing the two- and three-bedroom apartments.

“So far, there are 400 signatures” against the project, Hemphill told The Pine Cone Monday.

While he said he appreciates the relative closeness of the proposed housing to Pebble Beach Co. employees’ workplace, he believes having 24 apartments near his house would change the character of the neighborhood in a negative way.

See **HOUSING** page 16A

Encroachments: Big problem or not?

By MARY SCHLEY

A CITY council workshop on encroachments into the public right of way — such as boulders, fences, gravel and pavers placed on unpaved areas between the property line and the road — ran more than two hours Monday, highlighting the conundrum of requiring uniformity in a town that prides itself on diversity and informality, and presenting the prospect of upsetting thousands of property owners with demands for permits or removal of what they believe are improvements.

New planning and building director Rob Mullane and contract planner TJ Wiseman wanted the council, residents and contractors to understand what encroachments are — “any excavation, structure or object, temporary or permanent, on any city property or public right of way, except driveways” — why they should be avoided, and why they need permits. The Oct. 7 workshop stemmed from the “right of way vision statement” adopted by the city council earlier this year.

In that document, the council decided drought-tolerant and native plants with an informal arrangement can be planted, while formal arrangements of “highly colorful flowering plants” are prohibited. Plants shouldn’t be at the street edge, so that people can park, and paving, gravel, boulders, logs, timbers, planters or other “above-ground encroachments” are against the rules without permits, except for driveway pavement and narrow pathways of decomposed granite.

The Carmel Municipal Code discourages encroachments and states they should be kept to a minimum, but planners acknowledged small lots and narrow roadways encourage

people to beautify the areas between their homes and the street. Further complicating matters, many residents and contractors don’t know the permit requirements for such projects, and Mullane also blamed lack of familiarity with the city’s goals and general plan, inadequate compliance efforts due to city employees not knowing the code, and inconsistent

See **ENCROACH** page 22A

Pine Cone sues city over resume, but the suit is quickly settled

PINE CONE STAFF REPORT

ON TUESDAY, The Carmel Pine Cone filed a lawsuit against the City of Carmel in an effort to get planning director Rob Mullane’s resume, and on Thursday the lawsuit was settled.

“We reached an agreement with the city, not only to provide us with everything substantive from Mullane’s resume, but also a promise that they would do the same in the future for all new hires to senior-management-level positions at city hall,” publisher Paul Miller said.

The city council, meeting in closed session Thursday to respond to the suit, also reaffirmed “the city’s policy and practice that the California Public Records Act be construed broadly in favor of public disclosure, consistent with the law and the rights of our employees.”

After the meeting, city administrator Jason Stilwell provided The Pine Cone with details from Mullane’s resume,

See **SUIT** page 6A

Cemetery fundraising making good progress

■ \$100,000 donated, governor signs \$1M appropriation

By KELLY NIX

A WEEK after Carmel Mayor Jason Burnett made a plea for donations to the proposed Central Coast Veterans Cemetery at Fort Ord, money has been pouring in, including a \$1 million appropriation from state taxpayers via the Legislature and Gov. Jerry Brown.

Last week, Burnett and Monterey County deputy district attorney Jimmy Panetta invigorated a long-running fundraising campaign to collect donations for the cemetery, which is estimated to cost about \$9.5 million.

On Thursday, Brown’s office announced he’d signed SB232, a bill sponsored by Sen. Bill Monning and Assemblyman Mark Stone that provides \$1 million for the cemetery fund. And Burnett told The Pine Cone Thursday afternoon that another \$100,000 in private funds have been donated or “committed.”

“We’ve been receiving dozens and dozens of donations and more commitments,” Burnett said. “We are making very good progress.”

The cemetery is set be on 78.7 acres of land at the intersection of Normandy and Parker Flats roads, and will serve the burial needs of area veterans for the next 100 years.

In order for the state to accept a \$6.7 million grant from the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs for the project that Congressman Sam Farr secured, it required a big chunk in local donations by Oct. 15 to avoid losing the federal funds.

The David and Lucile Packard Foundation last week provided a \$100,000 grant and a \$350,000 bridge loan to the Fort Ord Reuse Authority for the cemetery. The loan will be repaid at a 1 percent interest rate. Monterey businessman Ted Balestreri also loaned \$150,000 to the project. FORA accepted the funds at an Oct. 4 meeting.

The \$6.7 million federal grant will cover all construction costs associated with building Phase 1, which includes the

See **CEMETERY** page 25A

When money is no object, but sucking up is important

By PAUL MILLER
Twelfth in a series

EVERYBODY WHO’S ever had a boss knows the feeling of being told to do something that’s completely stupid.

In the topsy-turvy world of network television, where I toiled 11 years for CBS News and NBC News, the situation was worse than in most workplaces, because besides the boss you had on the organizational chart, you had another boss who reigned supreme, but who wasn’t accountable for the decisions he made, and whose power was so enormous, even the most senior “bosses” were forced to kowtow and grovel before him, try to guess what he wanted, cater to his every whim and hope against hope not to do something that displeased him. The price for doing that could be irrevocably losing favor, or suddenly losing your job.

This super boss was the anchorman, and the

See **INCOMPETENT** page 18A